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THESIS

THE DEFENSE MESSAGE SYSTEM
AND
THE U.S. COAST GUARD

by

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June 1992

Principal Advisor:

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The Defense Message System
and
The U.S. Coast Guard

by

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Lieutenant Commander, United States Coast Guard
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Submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of

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ABSTRACT

This thesis provides an overview of the Defense Message System (DMS) and the messaging related components of the Coast Guard Telecommunications System (CGTS). Also addressed are the seven-layer Open Systems Interface (OSI) Reference Model, the Government Open System Interconnection Protocol, and various interface devices such as bridges, routers, and gateways. The DMS Program is composed of a baseline architecture and three phases that will result in the transition from baseline systems and networks to a target architecture, with a goal for complete writer-to-reader messaging services. DMS baseline components, such as the Automatic Digital Network and components of the Defense Data Network, will either be phased out or transitioned into new architectures that will lead to the target architecture. The Coast Guard telecommunications organization is addressed as well as the broad aspects of the CGTS. A key issue of this thesis is to emphasize the importance of interoperability between the DMS and the CGTS through the use of approved standards and protocols.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this thesis is to examine the Defense Message System (DMS) and Coast Guard Telecommunications System (CGTS), and explore how the DMS will affect the CGTS. The Department of Defense's (DOD's) long term transition from a DMS Baseline Architecture to the DMS Target Architecture is planned to occur in a three-phased strategy from 1988 to the year 2008. Since the Coast Guard uses DOD systems and networks to deliver and receive messages, the DOD's transition to the DMS directly impacts the Coast Guard. Therefore, the phased implementation strategy to the DMS Target Architecture needs to be fully understood by the Coast Guard, and future changes to Coast Guard message procedures, systems, and networks need to be done in collaboration with DOD interoperability efforts.

B. SCOPE

This thesis is designed to provide an overview of the DMS, the parts of the CGTS that deal with shoreside general service (GENSER) messages and electronic mail (E-Mail), and the relationships between them. It is not designed to provide detailed technical aspects of the electronic aspects of message transmissions, however, it will address related systems and networks used.

C. APPLICABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Statutory Considerations

The intent of this section is not to imply that the Coast Guard has direct statutory requirements to be involved with the DMS target architecture and implementation strategy, however, a common sense planning and coordination approach to future events is needed to ensure that there are appropriate interoperable interfaces between the DMS and the CGTS. Nevertheless, statutory requirements should be understood to ensure that its intent is accomplished.

Basic statutory considerations include the fact that the Coast Guard is a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States. As a military service, the Coast Guard operates in the Department of Transportation, except when it is operating as a service in the Department of the Navy. The Coast Guard may operate in the Department of the Navy upon declaration of war or when the President so directs it. [Ref. 1:pp. 35-36] Therefore, the Coast Guard telecommunications systems should be interoperable with those of the Department of the Navy (DON) and, in general, with the DOD and the National Command Authorities (NCA). The Coast Guard has a responsibility to be interoperable with the DMS (i.e., interoperable with the NCA, DOD, and DON) for present and future military preparedness and national defense

purposes, including U.S. Maritime Defense Zone (MDZ) responsibilities.

2. Operational and Support Considerations

During day-to-day peacetime operations the Coast Guard needs to communicate with many different elements of the DOD. These needs are based on the performance of Coast Guard missions and support functions related, but not limited, to the following activities on, under, and over the high seas or waters subject to U.S. jurisdiction:

- Federal law enforcement, including U.S. efforts with the "War on Drugs" and fisheries law enforcement, and related intelligence activities.
- Promotion of safety of life and property, including search and rescue, marine safety, and environmental protection.
- Other special operations and military exercises.

Operational reporting also includes keeping the U.S. Navy and other DOD elements informed of the status and capability of Coast Guard forces. These message reports include Casualty Reports (CASREPs), Movement Reports (MOVREPs), and Status of Resources and Training Systems (SORTS).

In general, some Coast Guard operations are performed in cooperation or coordination with various DOD agencies and elements thereof, and various military operational commanders, especially naval operational commanders, and their staffs and

operational forces. Day to day direct communications and interoperability are necessary.

Support considerations include inventory control and supply coordination. The Coast Guard owns or operates Navy supported equipment. This type of coordination is accomplished by Coast Guard aviation and ship inventory control points located at Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, NC, and Coast Guard Yard, Curtis Bay, MD, respectively. Message communications requirements at these locations necessitated connections to the DOD message transport system.

3. Current Communications Considerations

In addition to the operational considerations already mentioned, the Coast Guard currently uses DOD networks to transport messages to and from both Coast Guard and DOD agencies and elements. This consideration is evident with the connections the Coast Guard has to the DOD's Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN). One of the primary uses of this network by the Coast Guard is for the transport of classified messages. As will be addressed in the next chapter, the AUTODIN is part of the DMS baseline. Therefore, the Coast Guard needs to address what will happen to those connections under the planned DMS initiatives.

In addition to the Coast Guard's use of DOD systems and networks, the DOD commands and units use the message services of the CGTS. One current example is the U.S Pacific

Command's Joint Task Force Five (JTF 5). JTF 5 is located at Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA, and receives all of its message services through the Coast Guard Pacific Area's communications center. This example typifies the mutual support provided by the Coast Guard to DOD commands/units. Situations like this create a grey area between the DMS and the CGTS and highlight the need for coordination.

D. THESIS ORGANIZATION

This thesis is organized into the following chapters.

- Chapter II addresses the Defense Message System.
- Chapter III addresses the Coast Guard Telecommunications System.
- Chapter IV analyzes DMS-related issues that impact on the CGTS.
- Chapter V provides a summary and conclusions.

II. THE DEFENSE MESSAGE SYSTEM

A. INTRODUCTION

The Defense Message System (DMS) Program is a long-term transitional approach to improve the Department of Defense's (DOD's) message communications system and reduce costs while being responsive to overall mission requirements. Factors that led to this effort were budgetary constraints, old equipment and systems that were expensive to maintain and staff, and the emergence of new standards and technologies. The DMS design is based on the principles of standardization and interoperability. [Ref. 2:p. 1-1; Ref. 3:p. 1]

The DMS consists of software and hardware, standards and procedures, and personnel and facilities involved in providing DOD message services. Also included are other non-DOD interfaces to other systems, but DMS does not include those systems. DMS elements are the policies, procedures, standards, and components. DMS components are the hardware and software implementation of message applications. [Ref. 2:pp. 1-1 - 1-2]

This chapter addresses various aspects of the DMS, including a definition of DMS messages, and the guiding operational requirements for the DMS. Also addressed is an overview of the DMS Baseline, Target Architecture, and the three phases that are planned to transition DOD message

systems and networks from the Baseline to the Target Architecture.

B. DMS MESSAGES

A computer dictionary's definition of a message is:

In data communications, a message is an item of data with a specified meaning transmitted over communications lines. A message is composed of a header, the information to be conveyed, and an end-of-message indicator. [Ref. 4:p. 222].

Allied Communications Publication (ACP) 167 defines a message as:

Any thought or idea expressed briefly in plain or secret language, prepared in suitable format form for transmission by any means of communication. [Ref. 5:p. 2-42]

From these definitions comes two primary concepts: (1) a message has information, and (2) the message is transmitted and/or delivered. In addition, messages are typically formatted for administrative and transmission purposes. DMS messages are identified by two message classes, either organizational or individual [Ref. 2:p. 1-3].

1. Organizational Messages

Organizational messages include command and control messages exchanged between organizational elements that require a designated releasing official by the sending organization. The receiving organization determines its own internal distribution. This class of message is official in nature, and the operational requirements that are placed on a communications system include: non-routine precedence,

guaranteed timely delivery, high availability and reliability, accountability, and survivability. [Ref. 2:p. 1-3] This class of message directly relates to messages that are commonly referred to as official record message traffic.

2. Individual Messages

Individual messages include working level and administrative communications between individuals or end users, and in general, do not commit or direct an organization. Communications systems will need to provide connectivity between individuals and also be user friendly. [Ref. 2:p. 1-3] This class of message directly relates to messages that are commonly referred to as electronic mail (E-Mail), which tend to be less official in nature.

C. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The mission of the DMS is to handle messages in a manner appropriate to their content [Ref. 3:p. 2]. The thirteen primary operational requirements for the DMS are as follows. Each of these requirements need to be addressed for current systems and their subsequent improvements or replacements.

1. Connectivity/Interoperability

The DMS is required to provide message services within the DOD community, and it must also support interfaces to systems of other U.S. government entities. The concept of connectivity deals with providing message communications from writer to reader. Messages should be drafted and released, and

transmitted and received as close to the users as possible. This concept requires the eventual use of international standards and protocols. [Ref. 3:pp. 3-4]

2. Guaranteed Delivery/Accountability

The DMS is required to deliver messages with a high degree of certainty, and if non-delivery occurs, then the system must promptly notify the sender of the situation. Due to the official nature of organizational messages, writer to reader accountability is required. [Ref. 3:p. 4]

3. Timely Delivery

This requirement is based on preferential handling of more urgent messages. The DMS needs to dynamically change to accomodate varying traffic load patterns. A message's delivery time should be a function of message precedence and system stress level. [Ref. 3:p. 5]

4. Confidentiality/Security

This requirement is based on the prevention of unauthorized access or unauthorized release of information. The DMS should process, and appropriately separate and protect, all messages based on classification or compartmentation. Security requirements are based on integrity, authentication, and confidentiality. [Ref. 3:p. 5]

5. Sender Authentication

This requirement calls for the unambiguous verification of the receipt of a message from a specific

originating source. The release of an organizational message must be approved by a competent releasing official. [Ref. 3:p. 5]

6. Integrity

This requirement is based on the concept that the information content of a message sent by the writer is the same as is received by the intended reader. If authorized by the writer, the DMS may make format changes to accommodate the different component system capabilities. [Ref. 3:p. 5]

7. Survivability

The DMS survivability requirements are directly based on the survivability of the users of the system, and should not degrade the survivability of other interfaced systems. This requirement is accomplished through redundancy, proliferation of system assets, and distributed processing. [Ref. 3:p. 6]

8. Availability/Reliability

DMS availability should provide essentially continuous, all-hours messaging services. This can be accomplished by obtaining highly reliable, readily maintainable, and thoroughly tested software and components, and where appropriate, provide system redundancies and back ups. [Ref. 3:p. 6]

9. Ease of Use

In order to provide a system that automates writer to reader functions, the DMS needs to be flexible and responsive enough to allow user operations without extensive training. Developers of replacement components and software packages should consider ergonomically friendly user interfaces to facilitate this ease of use requirement. [Ref. 3:p. 6]

10. Identification of Recipients

The identification of recipients is necessary so that senders can identify to the DMS the final destination of an organizational or individual message. This is accomplished through the use of directories. [Ref. 3:pp. 6-7]

11. Message Preparation Support

This support requires user-friendly preparation of messages in the formats required, such as the U.S. Message Text Format (USMTF). [Ref. 3:p. 7]

12. Storage and Retrieval Support

After delivery, DMS should support the storage of messages for later retrieval for readdressal, retransmission, and automated message handling purposes. The storage period for organizational messages is specified by allied communications procedures. [Ref. 2:p. 7]

13. Distribution Determination and Delivery

This last requirement calls for the DMS to determine the distribution and delivery of organizational and individual

messages. For individual messages, delivery is specified by the message originator. For organizational messages, the DMS determines the destination for the addressee(s) in the message, and then delivery is accomplished per the requirements of the receiving organization. [Ref. 3:pp. 7-8]

D. DMS BASELINE

The first step in the DMS transition strategy was to identify a starting baseline based on the existing situation in September 1989. From this baseline, the DMS will evolve in approximately twenty years into a final target architecture based on requirements to reduce costs and staffing levels, while maintaining or improving existing levels of service and security. [Ref. 2: p. 1-1]

The importance of identifying the baseline is for the use of baseline information by the DOD as a fixed reference point and an evaluation tool against which the future costs, staffing levels, and performance incurred during the transition phases can be measured. The initial baseline architecture is depicted in Figure 1 [Ref. 2:p. 2-2]. The two primary components of the DMS baseline are the Automatic Digital Network and the electronic mail services on the DOD Internet and DOD local area networks.

1. Automatic Digital Network

The Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN) transports messages using store and forward technology, and was

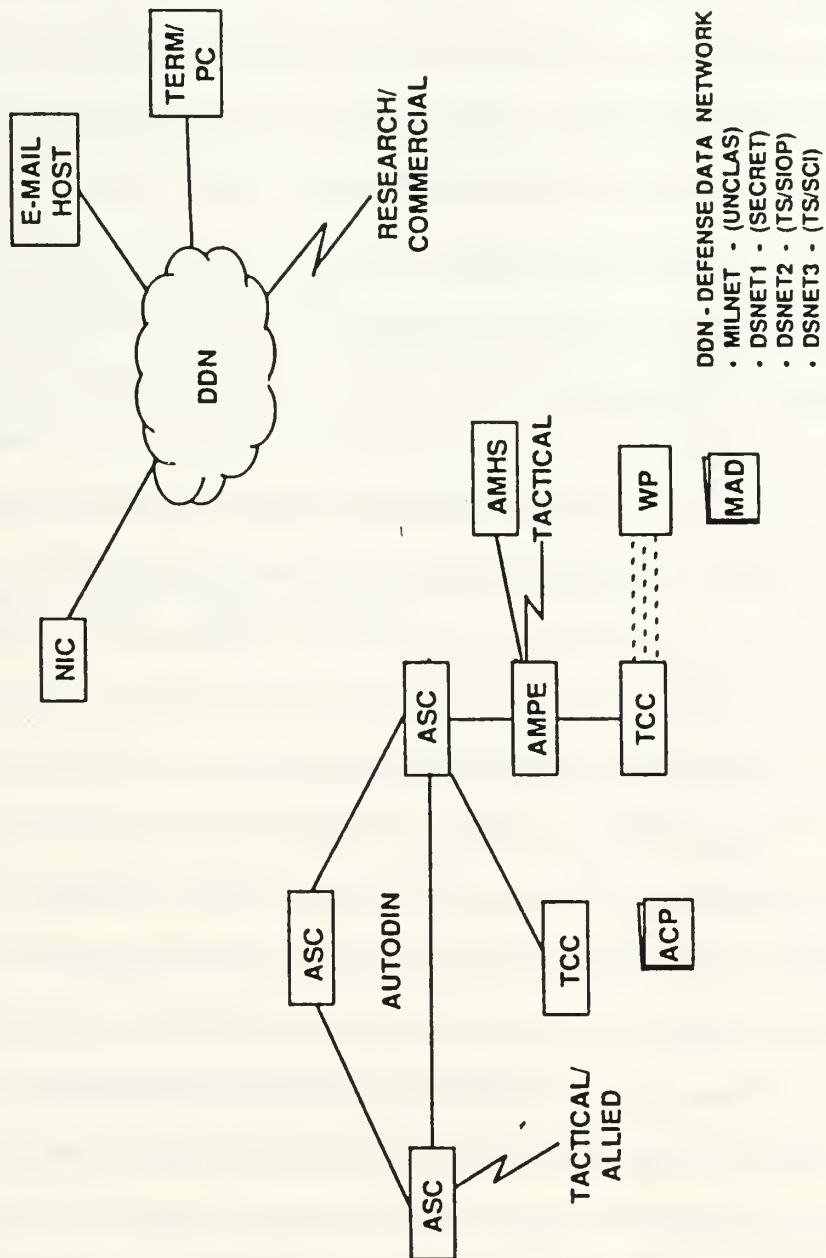


Figure 1 DMS Baseline Architecture

originally established in the 1960s. This DOD network is used to provide secure, multi-level precedence, and automated message services to meet DOD operational requirements. [Ref. 2:p. 2-1] As is, the AUTODIN is considered relatively costly to operate and maintain, and thus is a target for improvement or replacement under the DMS strategy. [Ref. 3:p. 15] AUTODIN components are shown in Figure 1 and are described below.

AUTODIN equipment connections are accomplished using dedicated transmission lines that are protected with the use encryption equipment (e.g., KG-84s) physically located in secure locations. Tailored AUTODIN interface devices are used to connect with tactical units, such as Navy afloat commands, and with allied, commercial and other agencies. [Ref. 2:p. 2-4]

a. AUTODIN Switching Centers

AUTODIN Switching Centers (ASCs) provide store and forward message switching for worldwide coverage. The ten operational ASCs and the multiple interconnecting links between them are referred to as the AUTODIN's trunk lines or backbone. These centers also provide validation functions, format conversions, and specialized routing functions. [Ref. 2:pp. 2-1, 2-4]

b. Automated Message Processing Exchanges

Automated Message Processing Exchanges (AMPEs) are connected to the ASCs and provide selected switching

functions, conversion of destination plain language addressees (PLAs) into AUTODIN routing indicators (RIs) (for AUTODIN backbone use), and message distribution to the telecommunication centers that are local to the specific AMPEs. There are over 100 AMPEs that include the following service/agency created and operated systems:

- Army's Automated Multi-Media Exchanges (AMMEs)
- Navy's Local Digital Message Exchanges (LDMXs)
- Air Force's Automated Message Processing Exchanges (AFAMPEs)
- National Security Agency's STREAMLINER
- Defense Intelligence Agency's Communication Support Processor (CSP) [Ref. 2:pp. 2-2 - 2-3]

The Navy's Naval Communications Processing and Routing System (NAVCOMPARS) is a tailored AUTODIN Interface Terminal (AIT) that connects to an ASC as a fleet gateway. The NAVCOMPARS emphasis is to automate the message receipt, processing, and transmission functions required to support the fleet. [Ref. 6:p. 3-30]

c. Telecommunications Centers

Telecommunication Centers (TCCs) are administrative message centers that are the primary entry and exit points for AUTODIN messages. These centers have historically provided a human-to-human interface via an over-the-counter operation. TCCs are staffed by communications

personnel who typically support one or more organizations, and these organizations usually have a relatively large volume of messages that require an appropriate distribution. Over the years, this operation has become more automated through the use of optical character readers, the use of hand-carried floppy diskettes, and in some locations, the use of direct electrical connections used to deliver and receive messages in electronic form (versus hard copy printout) with the use of personal computers (PCs). [Ref. 2:pp. 2-3 - 2-4]

d. Automated Message Handling Systems

These systems automate the TCC's handling of messages and, in effect, bypass the TCC's traditional operation and create direct connections to the AMPEs. This automated processing provides assistance in the coordination, release and distribution of messages, and the storage, sorting, and retrieving of messages after receipt. [Ref. 2:p. 2-3]

e. Message Directories and Operating Instructions

Message Address Directory (MAD) lists the Plain Language Addressees (PLAs) of organizations. The Allied Communications Publication (ACP) 117 series contains AUTODIN routing indicators (RIs) for the PLAs. Operating instructions are disseminated in ACPs and in the Joint Army Navy Air Force Publication (JANAP) 128. [Ref. 2:pp. 2-1 - 2-3] The ACP and MAD boxes in Figure 1 are not directly connected to other

AUTODIN components because they represent publications and listings, which are typically printed and distributed as paper products.

f. Specialized User Terminals

AUTODIN has a number of user terminals that typically support one organization. They are called user terminals because they are typically, although not exclusively, operated by the users, versus the equipment operated by communications personnel in a full TCC. These types of terminals usually handle a limited volume of messages, where there is limited distribution, and therefore do not require expensive or high speed transmission equipment. These terminals can be connected to the ASCs or the AMPs. [Ref. 2:p. 2-4] The Navy's specialized user terminals are used in smaller Navy TCCs, and include the Standard Remote Terminal (SRT) and the Remote Information Exchange Terminal (RIXT).

2. Electronic Mail Services

E-Mail services are typically provided over the DOD Internet, which is described below. In general, E-mail services provide a person-to-person message service. When a message is received, it can be read, printed, and moved for storage or deleted. In addition to these mail services, the Internet also provides a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and remote login between host computers (TELNET) capabilities.

[Ref. 7:pp. 23 - 24] Therefore, E-mail capabilities are just one of the three primary uses of the internet.

a. E-Mail Host

This host is a computer that has an E-Mail software application program that can be used to create, send, and receive messages. This computer also implements the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) and other protocols that allow E-mail host computers to send and receive messages. The E-mail host typically provides additional support to create messages and post-receipt message handling support, such as storage, sorting, retrieval, and printing. [Ref. 2:p. 2-10]

b. User Terminal

The user terminal can be almost any terminal or personal computer with appropriate terminal emulation software [Ref. 2:p. 2-10]. This equipment is utilized by the user using E-mail services, however, it need not be limited to this one set of application capabilities.

c. E-Mail Directories

One storage location for an E-Mail directory is Defense Data Network (DDN) Network Information Center (NIC). This directory contains over 50,000 users of E-Mail using the following format: USERNAME@HOSTNAME.DOMAIN. For example, 7540P@CC.NPS.NAVY.MIL represents a user's address and electronic mailbox (7540P - the author) at the host computer center at the Navy's Naval Postgraduate School (CC.NPS.NAVY).

The "MIL" stands for the domain "military agencies and organizations." Other top-level domains include commercial institutions (COM), educational institutions (EDU), network backbone entities (NET), and not-for-profit institutions (ORG). [Ref. 2:p. 2-10, Ref. 7:p. 59]

The above user's address is not listed at NIC because the NIC does not maintain a universal directory of network users. The task of maintaining a centralized listing of all current network users is too colossal. The NIC therefore maintains a directory, a host file table which contains host names registered at the NIC, and the host's corresponding Internet addresses which consist of four decimal numbers. These four numbers are separated by a period or a dot. One example is the DDN.NIC.MIL host at the Internet address 192.112.36.5. The NIC host file table is transferred by each host site to their location for E-mail routing purposes. [Ref. 2:p. 2-10; Ref. 7:pp. 38, 58, 71]

The task of efficiently maintaining a centralized table of the large number of Internet hosts is difficult, and it is also difficult for host sites to transfer this information. Another alternative created was the Domain Name System (DNS). In the DNS, the host Internet addresses are grouped into a hierarchy of authority. This common information is distributed throughout the Internet. Each domain within DNS has at least two hosts that run server programs assisting in locating subordinate host sites. With this system, the entire

database of hosts need not be centrally maintained. [Ref. 7:p. 59]

d. DOD Internet

The E-Mail services of the Internet is a component of the DMS, however, the Internet itself is not. The Internet is a group of packet switching networks (PSNs) using the Internet Protocol (IP), and are connected together with gateways. The Internet itself has three major divisions: classified DDN, unclassified DDN, and baseline transmission facilities. [Ref. 2:p. 2-10] In general, the first two are called the Defense Data Network (DDN). The DDN is a worldwide wide area network (WAN) that uses packet-switching technology to provide data transport services. For DMS baseline purposes, the discussions below will be focused towards DDN E-Mail services. DDN network components include packet switches, communications circuits, access devices, monitoring centers, and Internet gateways. [Ref. 8:pp. 1, 33]

(1) *Defense Data Network.* As discussed above, the DDN has three major divisions or components.

Classified DDN. The three classified segments of the DDN contain secure packet switches that provide the backbone for classified E-Mail. Each of these segments is physically separate, and is physically, procedurally, and cryptographically secure to the following levels: DSNET1 (Secret), DSNET2 (Top Secret (TS)), and DSNET3 (TS - Sensitive

Compartmented Information (SCI)). This separation creates different user communities for each level. DSNET1, DSNET2 and DSNET3 are planned to merge into the Defense Integrated Secure Network (DISNET). DISNET is planned to be available for DMS use during the end half of the second phase to the DMS Project. [Ref. 2:pp. 2-2, 2-10]

Unclassified DDN. The unclassified segments (MILNET and ARPANET) of the DDN contain nonsecure packet switches that provide the backbone for unclassified E-Mail. [Ref. 2:p. 2-10]

Baseline Transmission Facilities. These facilities include base cable plants and their associated main distribution frame(s) and dial central office(s). This baseline includes digitization upgrades on local area networks. [Ref. 2:pp. 2-10 - 2-11]

(2) *DDN Connections.* Access to DDN is accomplished from a terminal or computer through a DDN host, a terminal access controller (TAC), or a gateway concentrator [Ref. 7:p. 8]. These various access options depend on different factors such as user location and needs, and costs.

Host Access. Direct connections to a DDN host are generally accomplished with the use of synchronous terminals or local area networks (LANs) located at the host's location. Host access can also be accomplished with the use of TELNET when access to another DDN host has already been

accomplished. This is called a host-to-host connection. [Ref. 7:p. 8; Ref. 2:p. 2-11]

TAC Access. TACs are utilized by users who are geographically distant from their host computers. Connections to the TAC include telephone dial-up and hard-wired terminals. Telephone dial-up to a TAC is accomplished by using a personal computer, a modem, and a communications software package, or using a terminal and an acoustic coupler. Hard-wired connections are accomplished by running a cable from the terminal to the TAC; this provides a direct connection with access on immediate demand. Mini-TACs are also used in a similar fashion; however, they have fewer user connection capabilities (e.g., 64 user ports for a TAC and 16 user ports for a mini-TAC). Mini-TACs are more technically advanced and, therefore, provide more advanced operations and security features. [Ref. 7:pp. 5-17, 21]

Gateway Access. Gateways are typically used between dissimilar networks, such as between the DDN and a LAN or a non-DDN network, or can be used between two similar networks. The gateway manages the communications between the two networks, including the transparent handling of E-Mail. Gateway concentrators provide advantages for connecting installations to the DDN as they increase the number of possible connections, quicken the connections, and lower the cost per host. Multiple host connections to a concentrator can reduce the communication port limitations at a DDN packet-

switching node thus making more connections possible. [Ref. 7:pp. 8, 57-58]

Personal Computers. A PC can be connected to the DDN as a host with the IP software. Most PCs are connected to the DDN like a terminal, that is, connected to a LAN or a TAC/mini-TAC, or by telephone dial-up. [Ref. 7:p. 9]

3. Summary

The DMS baseline was the communication situation (hardware, software, procedures, etc.) at the start of the DMS project. The goal for DMS was to evolve into an improved system, a target architecture.

E. DMS TARGET ARCHITECTURE

The target architecture is different from the current system as the target architecture is envisioned to be a totally automated writer-to-reader messaging system that uses commercially available messaging and directory service standards and protocols. This is typified by the required use of the Consultative Committee International Telegraph and Telephone (CCITT) X.400 Message Handling System, and X.500 Directory Service standards and protocols. Security issues are handled through the use of the DoD's Secure Data Network System (SDNS) Message Security Protocol (MSP). The evolutionary process from the 1989 baseline to the desired target architecture is highlighted by the concept of decentralization and flexibility. Decentralization refers to

the placement of as many messaging functions as possible at the user's physical locations. Flexibility refers to the ability of DMS to evolve to include new technological advances that become available over time, while at the same time incorporating on-going DOD programs like the SDNS. [Ref. 2:p. 3-1]

As discussed earlier, DMS messages will be either individual or organizational. DMS messages will be exchanged within X.400 electronic envelopes. DMS users, or lists of users, will be uniquely identified by an originator/recipient name (O/R). This name has two parts, a directory name and its O/R address. Like a regular postal envelope, the X.400 envelope will contain the originator and recipient address information, date/time marks, and control parameters (for special "handling" or routing instructions). The DMS message will have three parts: the SDNS heading (for security services), the message heading (containing internal distribution control, such as: TO, FROM, INFO/COPY, DATE, and SUBJECT) and the message body (containing text, graphics, facsimile, teletex, videotex and/or digitized voice). The message heading and message body will be encrypted by the SDNS MSP, and the SDNS heading will contain the appropriate decryption information. [Ref. 2:pp. 3-1 - 3-3]

The functional elements of the DMS target architecture are shown in Figure 2 [Ref. 2:p. 3-4]. X.400 message handling services will be performed by the Message Transfer Agents

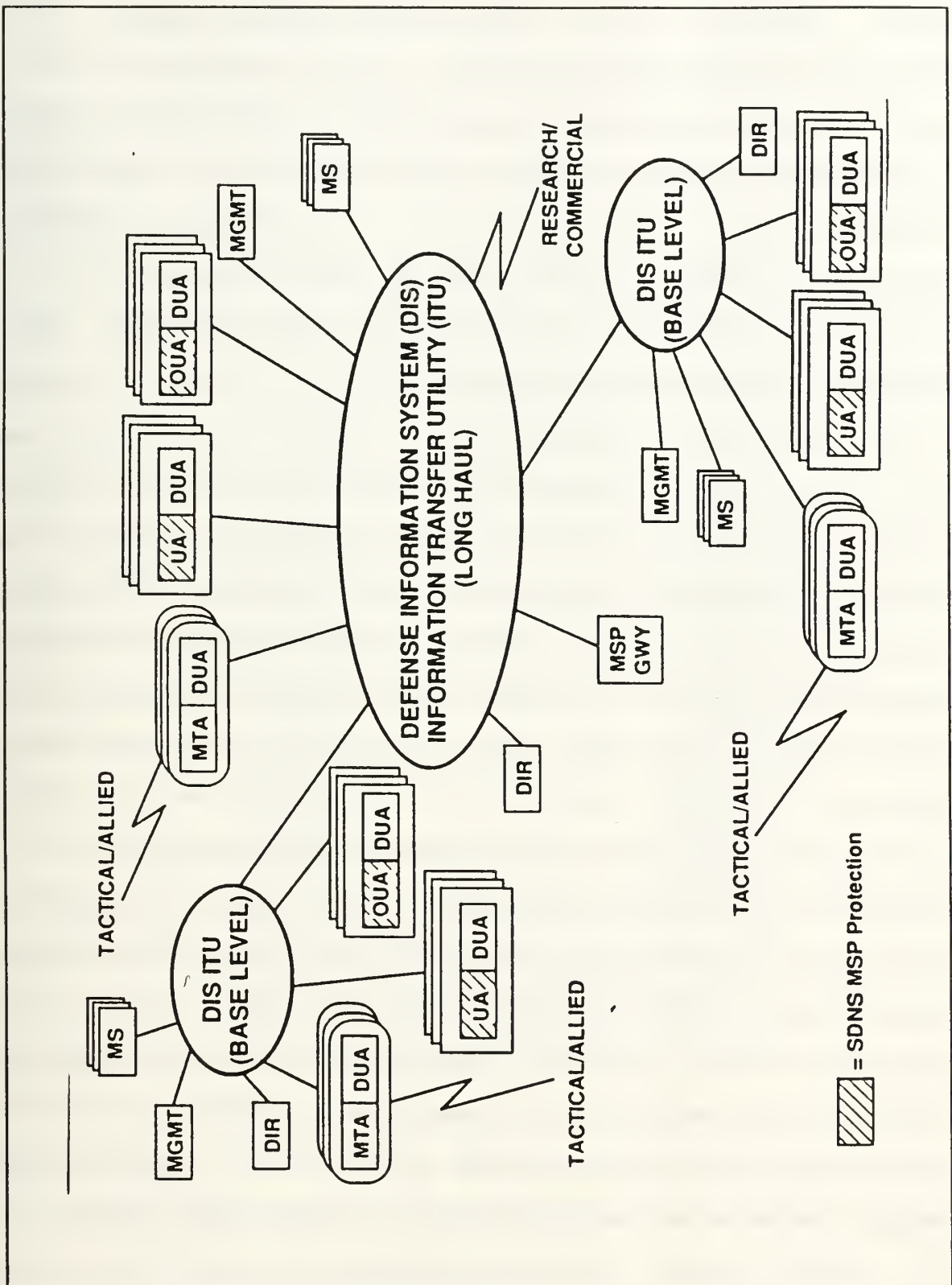


Figure 2 DMS Target Architecture

(MTAs), Message Stores (MSs), User Agents (UAs), and Organizational User Agents (OUAs), and will typically reside on PCs. X.500 directory services will be performed by the Directory User Agents (DUAs) and a hierarchically distributed directory (DIR). [Ref. 2:pp. 3-3 - 3-4] These and other functional elements of the target architecture, such as transmission components, MSP Gateway, DMS management, and security issues are discussed below.

1. Transmission Components

The future transmission components of the Defense Information System (DIS) to be used by DMS will be the long haul and base level Information Transfer Utility (ITU). The long haul portion will be managed by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) (formerly the Defense Communications Agency (DCA)). The base level portion will be planned and operated by the DOD military services and agencies. The Navy calls their base level portion the Base Information Transfer System (BITS). The DMS target architecture calls for both the long haul and base level ITUs to use Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) based capabilities. [Ref. 2:pp. 3-13] Basically, ISDN is a network that provides end-to-end digital connectivity based on CCITT recommendations. ISDN will provide a wide spectrum of user needs including the transport of digitized voice, data applications, and digitized image.

2. Message Handling System

As addressed earlier, X.400 message handling services (MHS) are performed by the MTAs, MSs, UAs, and OUAs. Figure 3 [Ref. 2:p. 3-5] shows the interactions between these functional components.

Users will interface with the X.400 MHS through UAs or OUAs, where the SDNS MSP protection is provided. Users creating, coordinating, releasing, and receiving messages will use the UAs or the OUAs. The UA application process will reside on individual user's desktop PC or terminal. The UA will interact with an MS, if implemented, or to an MTA for the receipt and transmission of messages. The OUA will have more capabilities than the UAs as it will handle all of the unique requirements of organizational messages, with emphasis on the formal receipt and release of those organizational messages. [Ref. 2:p. 3-3 - 3-6]

The MS will be an optional DMS component to handle the interface between one UA and an MTA. Among its many capabilities, the MS will temporarily store messages for its UA that may be offline, and for online UAs, the MS will alert the user of an incoming message. [Ref. 2:p. 3-7]

At the heart of the MHS will be the Message Transfer System (MTS). In the MTS, the MTAs will route messages through the base level and long haul ITUs. As necessary, this routing will be accomplished through MTA routing tables, or the MTA will query the DMS directory services which will be

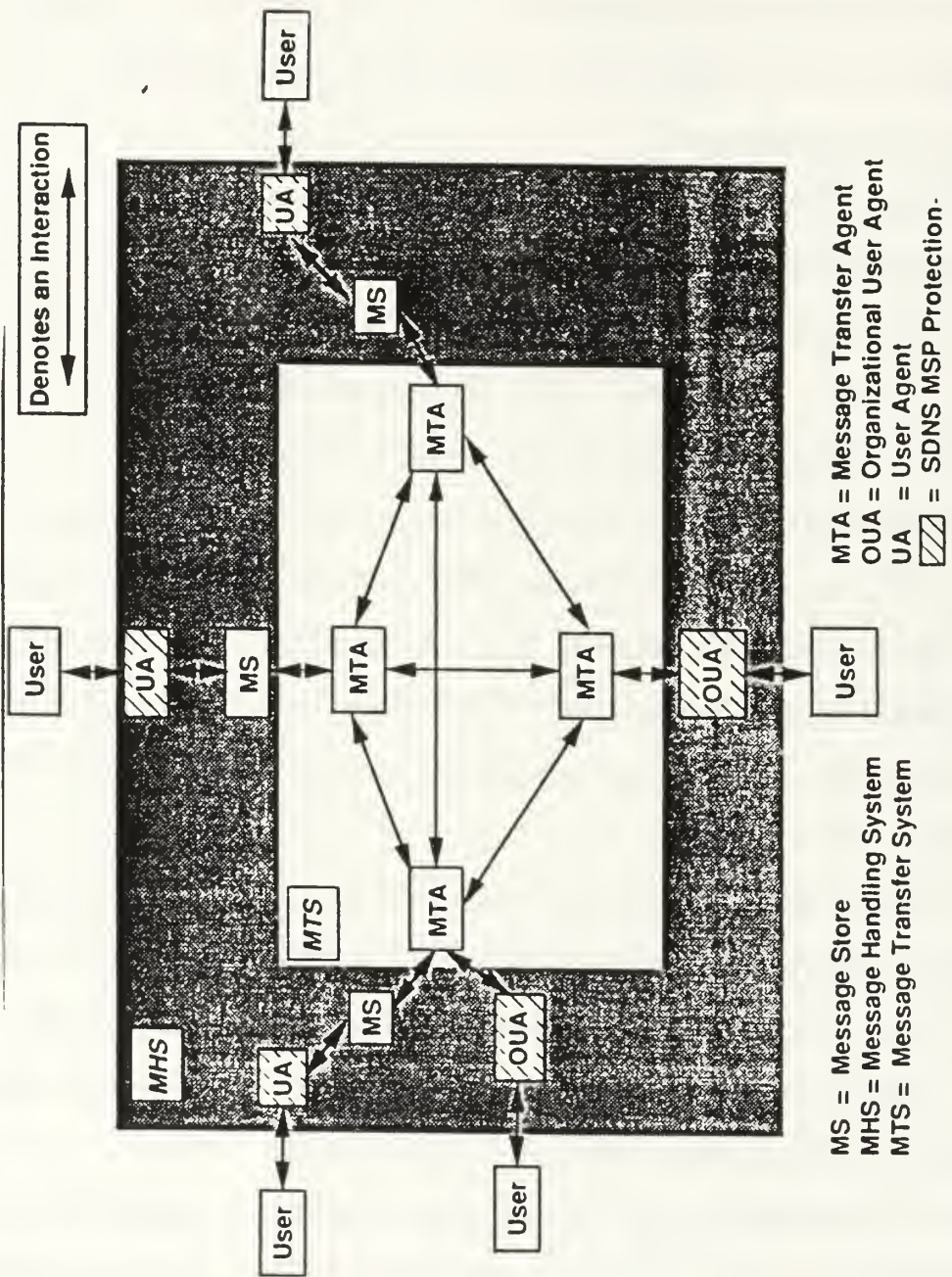


Figure 3 DMS Message Handling System Functional Model

available at either the base or long haul levels. [Ref. 2:p. 3-7 - 3-8]

3. Directory Services

DMS directory services will be developed using the X.500 standards. It will be the source for the directory name, the O/R address, and other required information. Figure 4 [Ref. 2:p. 3-9] contains a functional model of the proposed directory services.

Within the DMS, the hierarchical DIR will be distributed and will have the capability to translate between user friendly names and machine oriented O/R addresses; assist in authenticating the identity of MHS functional agents (i.e., UAs, OUAs, MSs and MTAs); store information on user capabilities and messaging services profiles; assist in the expanding distribution lists supplied by the MHS into individual O/R addresses; and assist in updating the routing tables at each MTA. [Ref. 2:pp. 3-8 - 3-9]

Individual and organizational users will manually, and MTAs will automatically, interface with the DMS Directory Services through a Directory User Agent (DUA) that will provide unique O/R addresses of intended message recipients. The DUA will store a list of some of the most commonly used names and O/R addresses used by the users and MTAs. This list will help speed up the process by eliminating the need for the DUA to interact with the DSA for every address. This list will be interactively updated by the DSA and the DUA. At the heart of Directory Services will be the "Directory" which is composed of interconnecting Directory System Agents (DSAs) that connect with the DUAs. Multiple DUAs will be served by

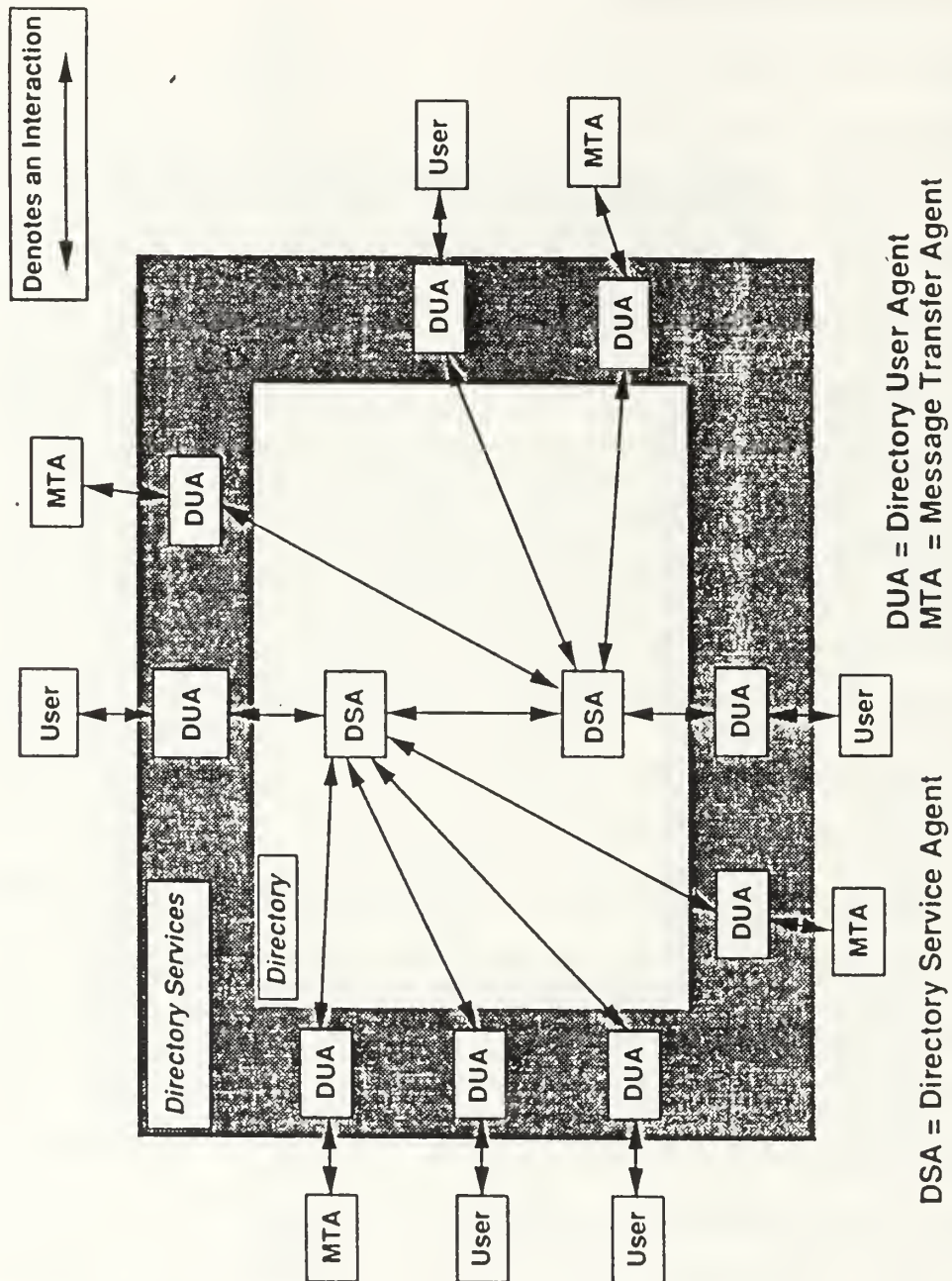


Figure 4 DMS Directory Services Functional Model

one DSA. The DSA will be the distributed, hierarchical application process that will include and provide access to the Directory Information Base (DIB). [Ref. 2:pp. 3-8 - 3-11]

4. MSP Gateway

A specialized gateway will be needed to interface the DMS community using the SDNS MSP with non-DOD entities using the X.400/X.500 protocols and not using SDNS MSP. If necessary, the MSP Gateway will decrypt the incoming message, encrypt it using SDNS MSP, and transmit to the intended recipient. The reverse process will be used for outgoing messages. [Ref. 2:p. 3-12] In Figure 2, the MSP Gateway is shown as connected to the long haul ITU. Note that the other networks and systems that may connect to this gateway will not be considered part of the DMS architecture.

5. Management

Like the Directory, management functions also will be hierarchical and distributed, meaning that they will not be centrally located. These automated functions support the overall DMS architecture and all of its users, and are shown in Figure 4 as connected to the base level and long haul ITUs. Management will include the enhanced performance of the overall MHS through the monitoring of the network's status and performance, and also through directory service maintenance and network configuration control. [Ref. 2:p. 3-11]

6. Security

Security will consist of DMS security policies, procedures and guidance developed as part of the phased implementation, together with the supporting security components. As noted in Figure 2, SDNS MSP security protocol protection will be required at the UAs and OUAs to ensure that writer-to-reader encryption is provided. Other security services will likely include confidentiality, data integrity, authentication, access control, and non-repudiation throughout various portions or all of the network. [Ref. 2:pp. 3-11 - 3-12]

A three-phased strategic approach has been identified in order for the DMS baseline system of 1989 to smoothly evolve into the target architecture of 2008. This DMS phased implementation strategy is addressed below.

F. DMS PHASED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The implementation strategy consists of three phases starting in 1989 with the identification of the DMS baseline and a planned completion in the year 2008 with the system's full operational capability. Figure 5 [Ref. 2:p. 4-2] shows major planned actions during the three phases to the DMS implementation strategy. These items are addressed below.

The "evolutionary transition" to the target architecture is based on compliance with various DMS objectives. These objectives include: reducing cost and/or staffing, satisfying

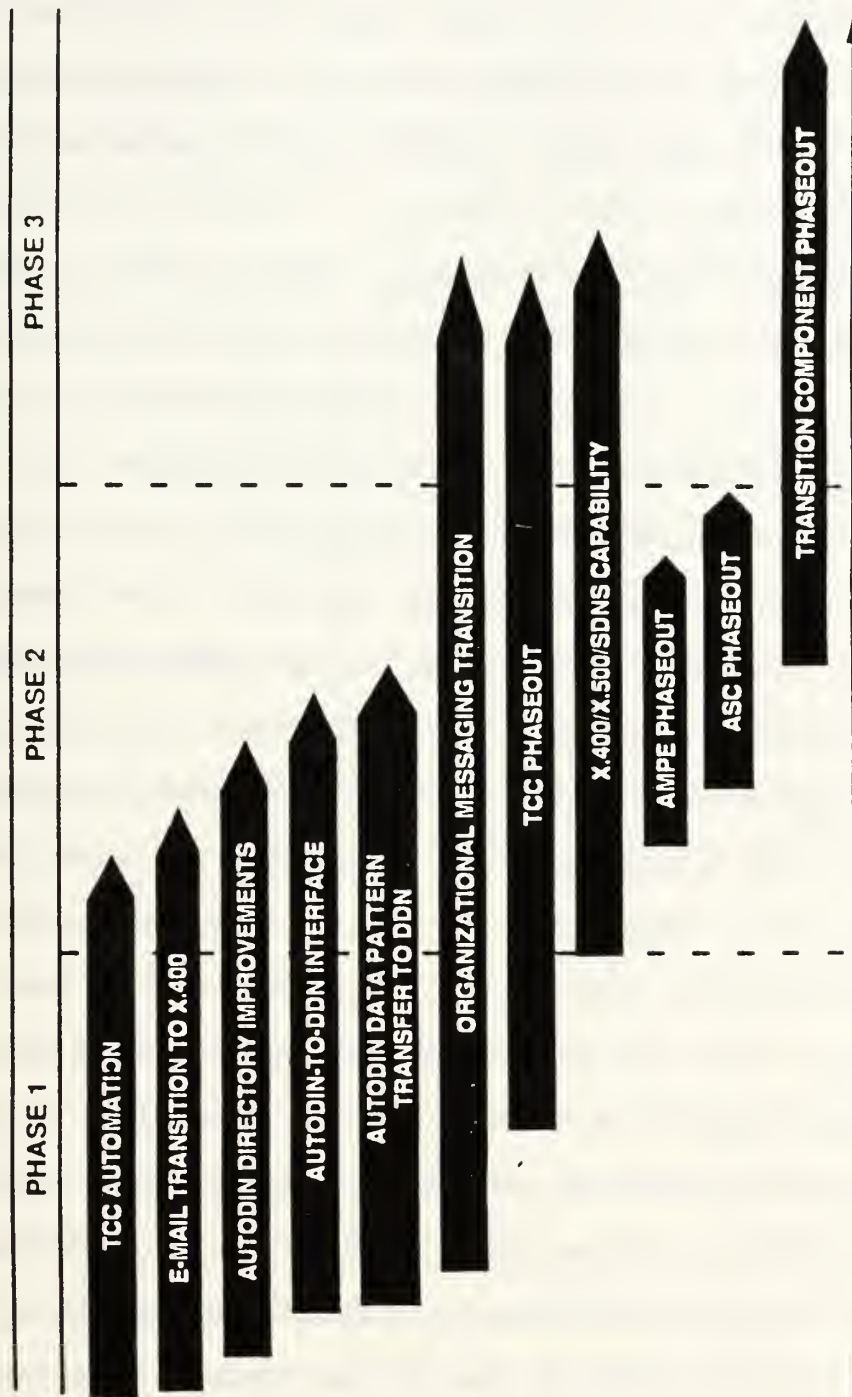


Figure 5 DMS Implementation Strategy

operational and service/agency requirements, extending the DMS interface closer to the user, and providing enhanced flexibility through the compliance with various standards, such as the Government Open Systems Interconnection Profile (GOSIP). [Ref. 2:pp. 4-11 - 4-13]

The implementation strategy calls for backward compatibility. This concept will support the evolution to the target architecture through multiple releases of various software and hardware DMS components combined with new policies and procedures. These releases will allow a phased deployment of new DMS components while at the same time aggressively phasing out "obsolete components, procedures, protocols, formats, and media." [Ref. 2:p. 4-1] This means that dual capabilities, both new and old, will be supported until the old baseline and intermediate transitional capabilities are phased out.

For the purpose of this thesis, Phases 1 will be described in more detail than the subsequent two phases. This approach is taken since Phase 1 is currently in progress (as of 1992), and it presents issues that the Coast Guard needs to consider. These issues will be addressed in Chapter IV. In addition, the details of actions and projects planned for Phases 2 and 3 will be subject to changes due to the lessons that will be learned during Phase 1, and also due to new technology that will become available in the future.

1. DMS Phase 1

Phase 1 is highlighted by the automation of the TCCs for future phaseout, and the creation of regional and base level interfaces between AUTODIN and DDN. The DMS Phase 1 architecture is shown in Figure 6 [Ref. 2:p. A-2]. Actions taken during Phase 1 will lead to the eventual phasing out of baseline ASCs, AMPEs, and TCCs. [Ref. 2:pp. A-2, A-16]

a. TCC Automation

TCC automation will reduce TCC staffing and costs, while at the same time bring the system's interface closer to the users. This involves the automation of the electronic transfer of messages to and from users verses the use of hard copy printouts. Some of the Navy's TCC related projects include the Remote Terminal System (RTS), the Personal Computer Message Terminal (PCMT), the GateGuard, and the Multi-level Mail Server (MMS). [Ref. 2:pp. 4-1 - 4-2, A-3 - A-4]

b. AUTODIN-to-DDN Interface

Figure 6 shows both the regional and base level AUTODIN-to-DDN Interfaces (ADIs), called R-ADI and B-ADI, respectively. The R-ADI gateway will provide initial connectivity and the selected transfer of narrative and data pattern traffic between ASCs and the DDN. The B-ADI provides a gateway interface between AMPEs and the DDN. B-ADI components shown in Figure 6 are the AUTODIN Mail Server (AMS)

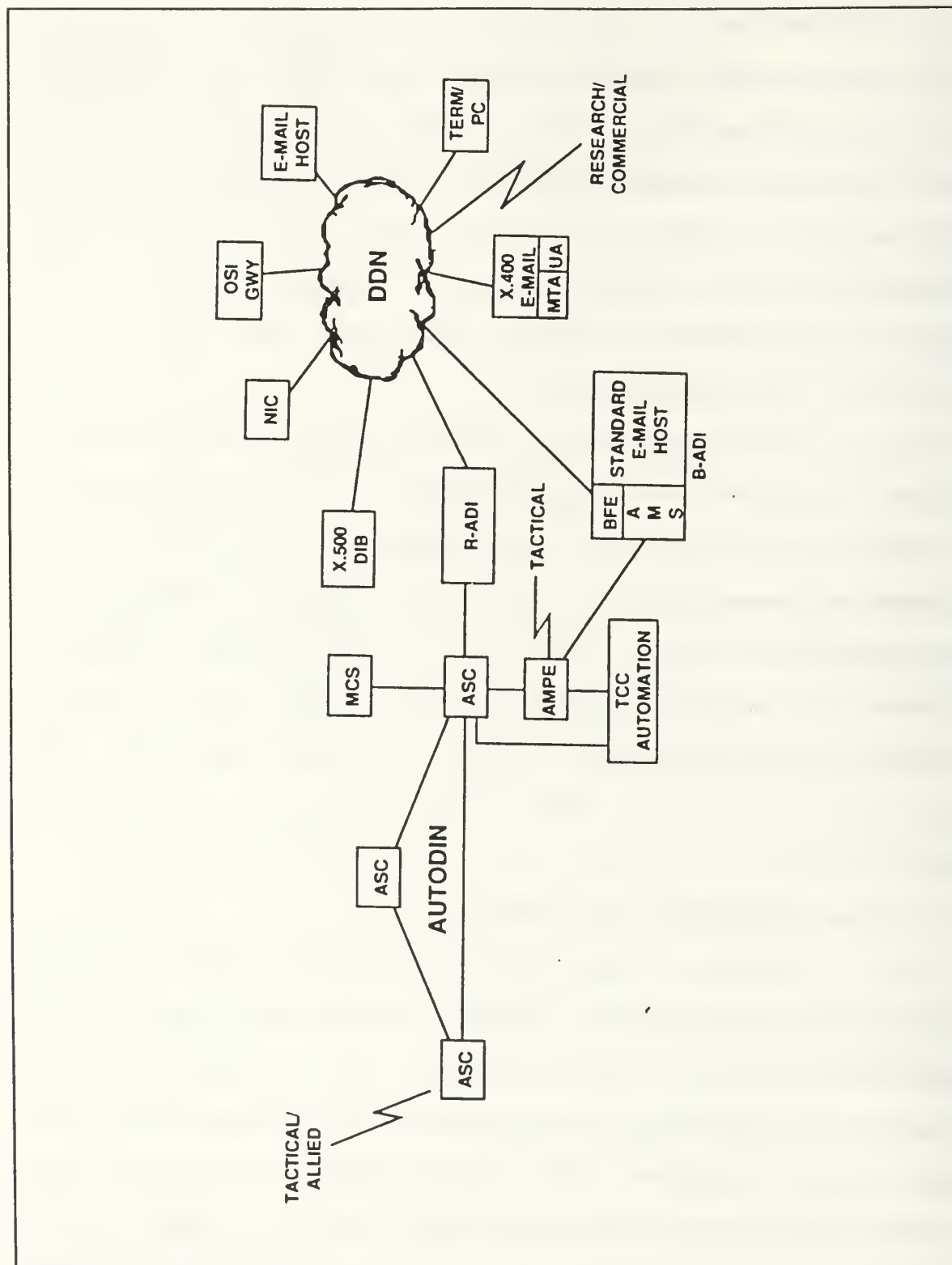


Figure 6 DMS Phase 1 Architecture

software application for message format conversions and the BLACKER Front End security device at a standard E-Mail host that will contain a variety of communications protocols. [Ref. 2:pp. A-11 - A-14]

c. Directory Improvements (MCS and X.500 DIB)

These directory improvements will include the Message Conversion System (MCS), which will be connected to an ASC, and X.500 Directory Information Base (X.500 DIB), which will be connected to the DDN. These mutually supporting improvements will facilitate message preparation, reduce the manual PLA-to-RI operations and AMPE/TCC database maintenance efforts, and support ADI capabilities. [Ref. 2:p. A-8]

d. X.400 E-Mail

Early DMS subscribers will have their user terminals and E-Mail hosts transition to an X.400 E-Mail service using MTAs and UAs (same hardware). These systems will need to be upgraded to meet DMS requirements (i.e., organizational message related issues) such as reliability, availability and responsiveness of hosts, and security protection, authentication and access control for message integrity and security. [Ref. 2:pp. A-14 - A-15]

X.400 messaging will require new message formats and procedures. There are plans for a new Allied Communications Publication (ACP) that will address the new Common Message Format (CMF). This ACP will serve as an

international standard for the use of X.400 and X.500 protocols. These protocols will be the basis for the phase out of AUTODIN and non-standard E-mail formats and procedures. [Ref. 2:p. A-16]

e. Open System Interconnection Gateway

During Phase 1, this OSI application level gateway will provide limited unclassified individual user message translation capabilities between the SMTP and X.400 protocols. This initial capability will start the process of transitioning existing systems or installing X.400 based MTAs and UAs. [Ref. 2:p. A-8]

2. DMS Phase 2

Phase 2 is scheduled to start in 1995 when the initial operational capability is available for X.400/X.500 individual and organizational messaging with SDNS MSP protection. Phase 2 is planned to be completed when the last ASC is phased out in approximately the year 2000. As noted in Figure 5, many of the projects started in Phase 1 will be completed, with organizational messaging transition and TCC phaseout continuing into Phase 3. This complex transition to organizational messaging spans all three DMS phases. Phase 2 will be characterized by significant hardware and personnel changes from what was known in the DMS baseline. [Ref. 2:p. B-1]

Figures 7 and 8 [Ref. 2:pp. B-5 - B-6] show the early and ending Phase 2 architectures, respectively. Figures 7 and 8 differ from the DMS Phase 1 Architecture (Figure 6) in that, in general, more detail is shown. First, the Phase 2 architectures are shown with "Base Level" and "Network" sections. This is easily seen by the separating dashed line in the middle of Figures 7 and 8. These sections represent the separation between the future base level and long haul ITUs. Another different separation is now shown between the unclassified and classified portions to the IITS and the DDN. In Figure 6, the DDN was shown as a "cloud." In Figures 7 and 8, the DDN is shown in more detail with guard gateway separating the DISNET and the MILNET, with a mail bridge to the Internet. Figures 7 and 8 show the base level transmission system and the existing user interfaces (the workstations); they were not included in Figure 6.

In Figure 7, the AUTODIN part of the architecture is shown in less detail (as compared to Figure 6). In Figure 8, the remaining AUTODIN users and TCC are drawn as a "cloud" with a DIN/DMS gateway to connect the cloud to the DDN DISNET and MILNET networks.

Two important aspects to Phase 2 will be the initial capability to handle classified messages with X.400 MHS and X.500 directory services over the SDNS, and the complete phaseout of two primary AUTODIN components, the AMPES and ASCs. When Phase 2 is completed, there will no longer be an

Figure 7 Early DMS Phase 2 Architecture

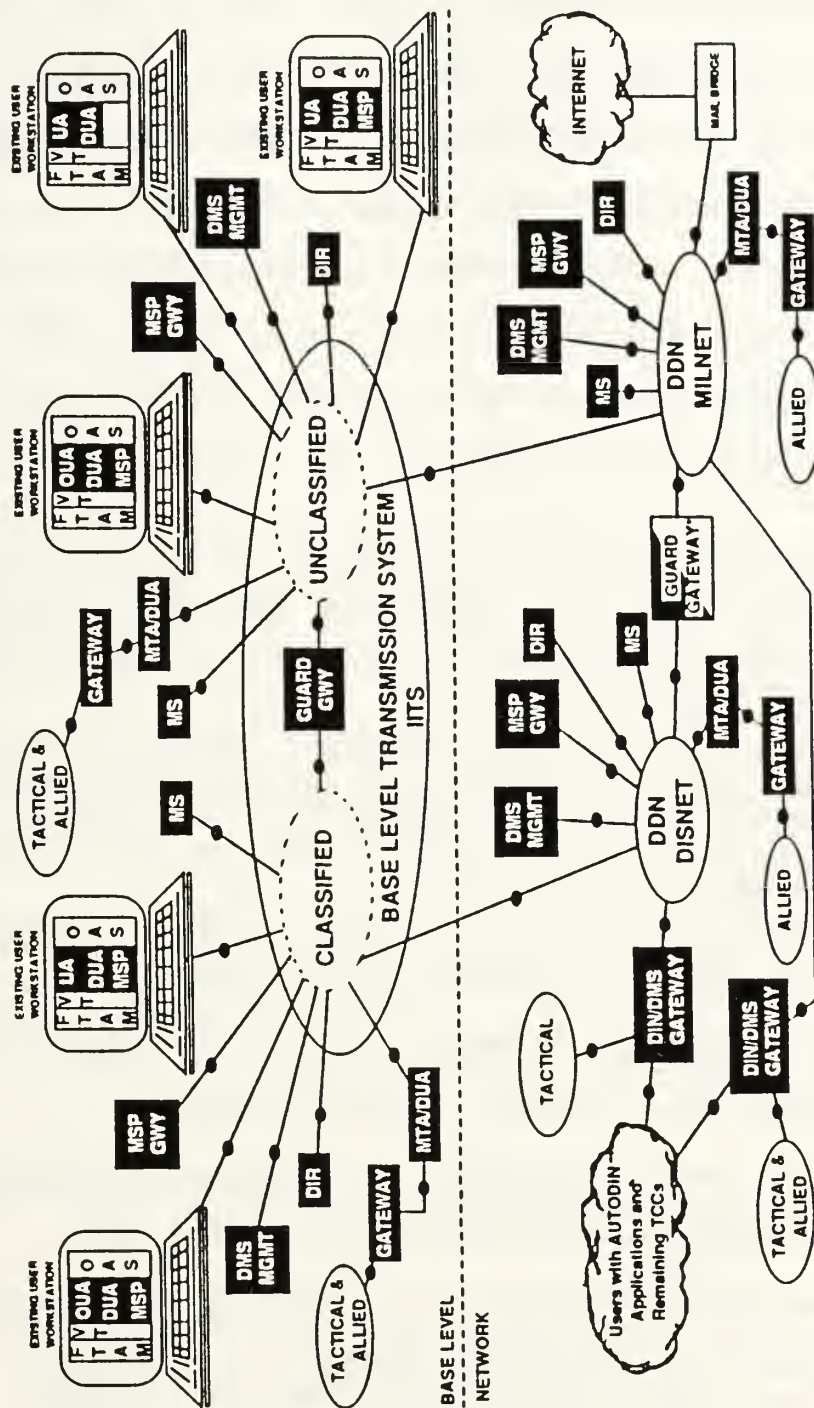


Figure 8 End DMS Phase 2 Architecture

AUTODIN. While AUTODIN components are being phased out, the transitional components fielded in Phase 1 will either be integrated and upgraded, or phased out altogether. This process will continue until the DMS full operational capability is provided. [Ref. 2:pp. 4-3]

As the middle phase to the overall transition strategy, Phase 2 bridges the initial action taken during Phase 1, and positions the DMS for transitioning into Phase 3. Phase 2 objectives are summarized as follows:

- Expand writer-to-reader connectivity and support. This is done with new or upgraded user PCs or desktop terminals (UAs, OUAs, MSs, and MTAs with X.400 MHS capabilities) and related X.500 directory services with DUAs, DSAs, and DIBs).
- Provide writer-to-reader message security services. This security service is provided through pre-MSP and MSP (application layer security), and lower layer security at the interfaces to the base level and long haul transmission networks.
- Phase out baseline messaging systems. This includes the TCCs, the AMPes, the ASCs, and the SMTP.
- Phase out baseline messaging formats and procedures. A new ACP prescribed CMF will replace AUTODIN's ACP-127 and JANAP-128, and DDN's E-Mail format.
- Maintain message exchange interoperability between the DMS and non-DMS systems. This is provided through DIN/DMS gateways which will replace the ADIs,
- Implement Phase 2 in a cost effective manner. This is accomplished sharing DMS applications among users, by using existing hardware/capital investments where possible, and planning for scheduled upgrades to be compatible with DMS objects. [Ref. 2:pp. 4-3, B-1 - B-3]

3. DMS Phase 3

This last phase starts when the last ASC is disconnected sometime after the year 2000. As shown in Figure 5, all baseline TCCs will be phased out, a full X.400/X.500/SDNS capability will be achieved, and the integration of all organizational messages into DMS will be completed. In addition, the phaseout of earlier phases' transitional components will also be completed. Although not a DMS program, the attainment of the DMS target architecture depends on the development of fully integrated long haul and base level ITUs (DIS and IITS) using ISDN technology. It is anticipated that during this phase, and also from the previous phases, that lessons will be learned and that technological advances will help shape the projects leading up to the desired DMS target architecture. [Ref. 2:pp. 4-3, C-1]

Figure 9 [Ref. 2:p. C-3] shows the DMS Phase 3 architecture. This architecture is "less busy" than that shown for Phase 2 (Figures 7 and 8). The base level and long haul ITUs will mature into networks where the transitional guard gateway separation between the classified and unclassified components to the ITU are eliminated. DDN DSNETs and MILNET are combined into one network with appropriate protection for different security classification levels. In addition, all users with AUTODIN applications and remaining TCCs will be phased out. This phaseout will eliminate the need for the DIN/DMS gateway. This gateway, and the allied gateway -

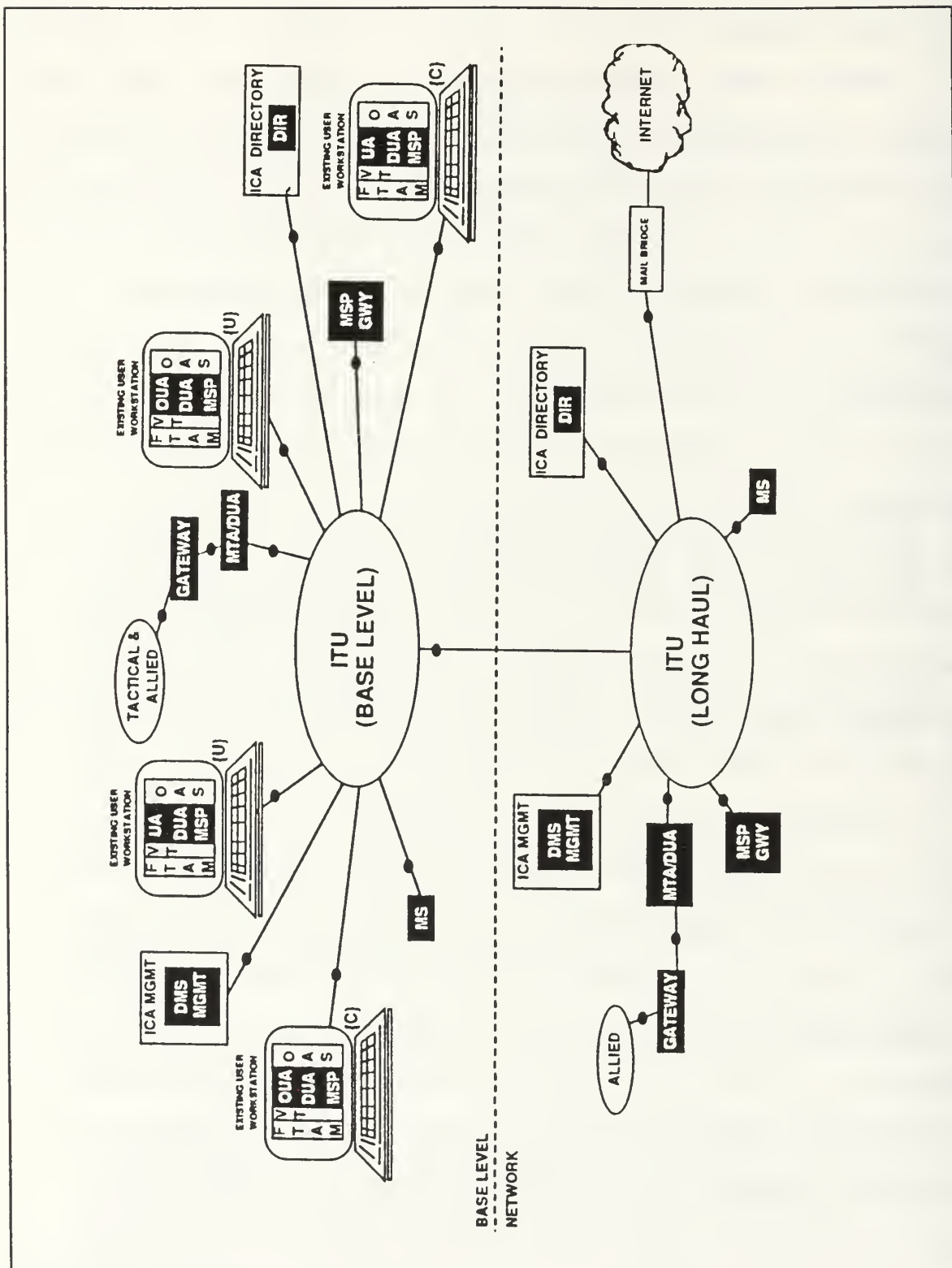


Figure 9 DMS Phase 3 Architecture

MTA/DUA connections to the base level and long haul ITUs (from Phase 2), will continue to provide interoperability to non-DMS users. In general, users will interface with the base level ITU through workstations that handle either classified or unclassified information.

G. SUMMARY

This chapter provides the reader with current DMS information. The DMS started with a baseline in 1989 and will end with a target architecture around the year 2008. This twenty year transition will be accomplished through a phased implementation strategy that will install transitional components to meet the needs of both the old and new systems and networks, and will eventually phaseout or upgrade the DMS baseline systems and networks that were used in 1989. It is the author's opinion that it is important that all military services, including the Coast Guard, and DOD/government agencies using the DMS baseline systems and networks be involved with the DMS Program so that their messaging needs are addressed, and so that they will be prepared to meet the challenges that DMS will undoubtedly present to them.

The following chapter will address the basic Coast Guard messaging systems and networks used in 1992. This information corresponds to the DMS baseline and Phase 1 type of information.

III. U.S. COAST GUARD TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter briefly addresses the Coast Guard's telecommunications organization and identifies elements of the Coast Guard Telecommunications System (CGTS). Also addressed is the Coast Guard Standard Workstation (CGSW) and various telecommunications/message related software application programs that run on the CGSW. Following the description of the CGSW are descriptions of the various message related networks and systems used by the Coast Guard and the future plans for the CGTS.

B. COAST GUARD TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION

Like the other military services, the Coast Guard has a hierarchical telecommunications organization that spans the Coast Guard organization. Figure 10 [Ref. 9:p. 1.1.2] is a simplified diagram of the overall Coast Guard organization. This organization reflects the assignment of military command, and operational and administrative responsibilities and authorities among components in Coast Guard Headquarters, Areas, Districts, Maintenance and Logistics Commands (MLCs), and field units. Figure 11 [Ref. 9:p. 1.1.3] shows the various geographic areas of responsibility for the area and district commands. In general, the chain of command is from the

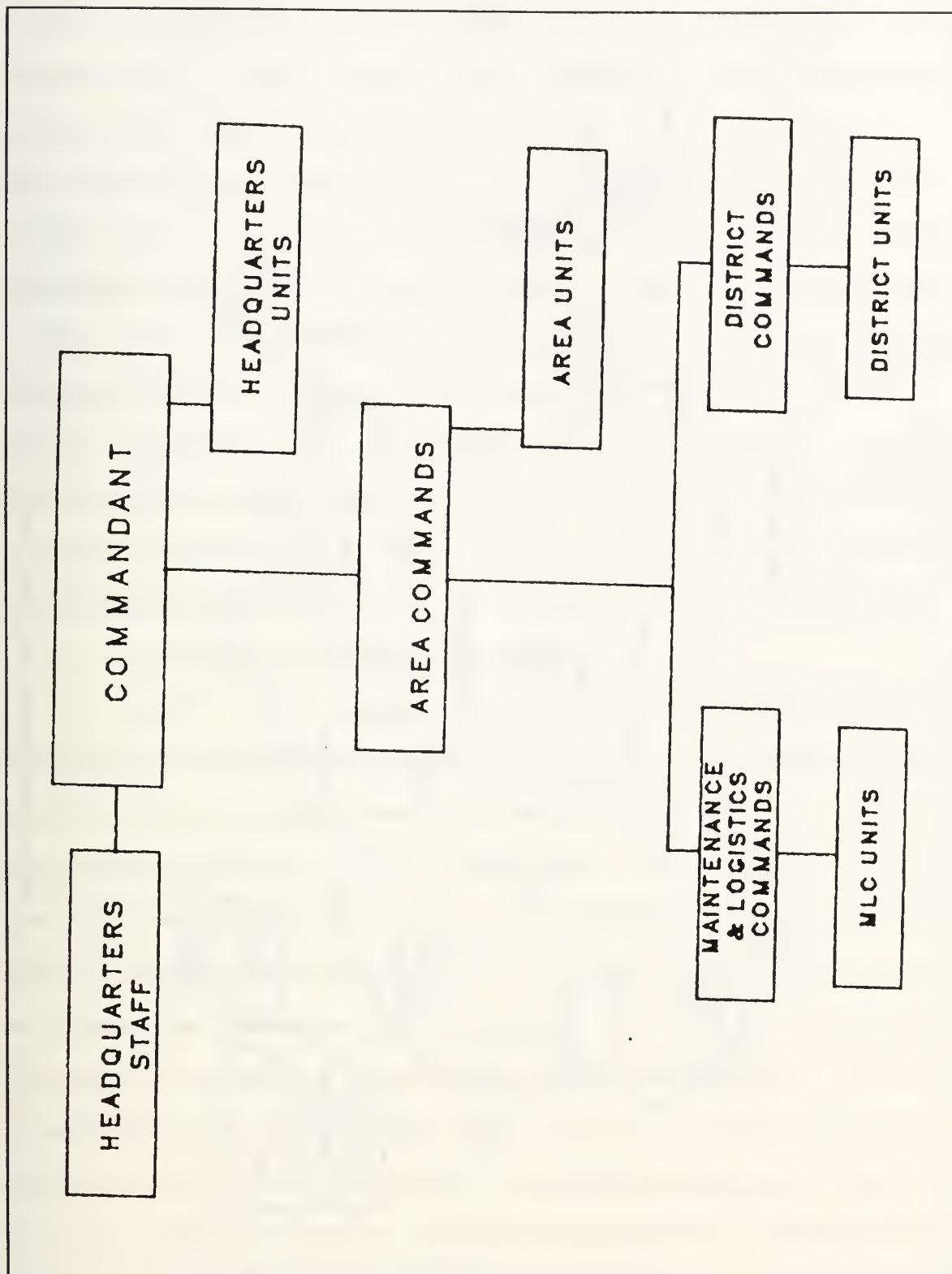


Figure 10 U.S. Coast Guard Organization

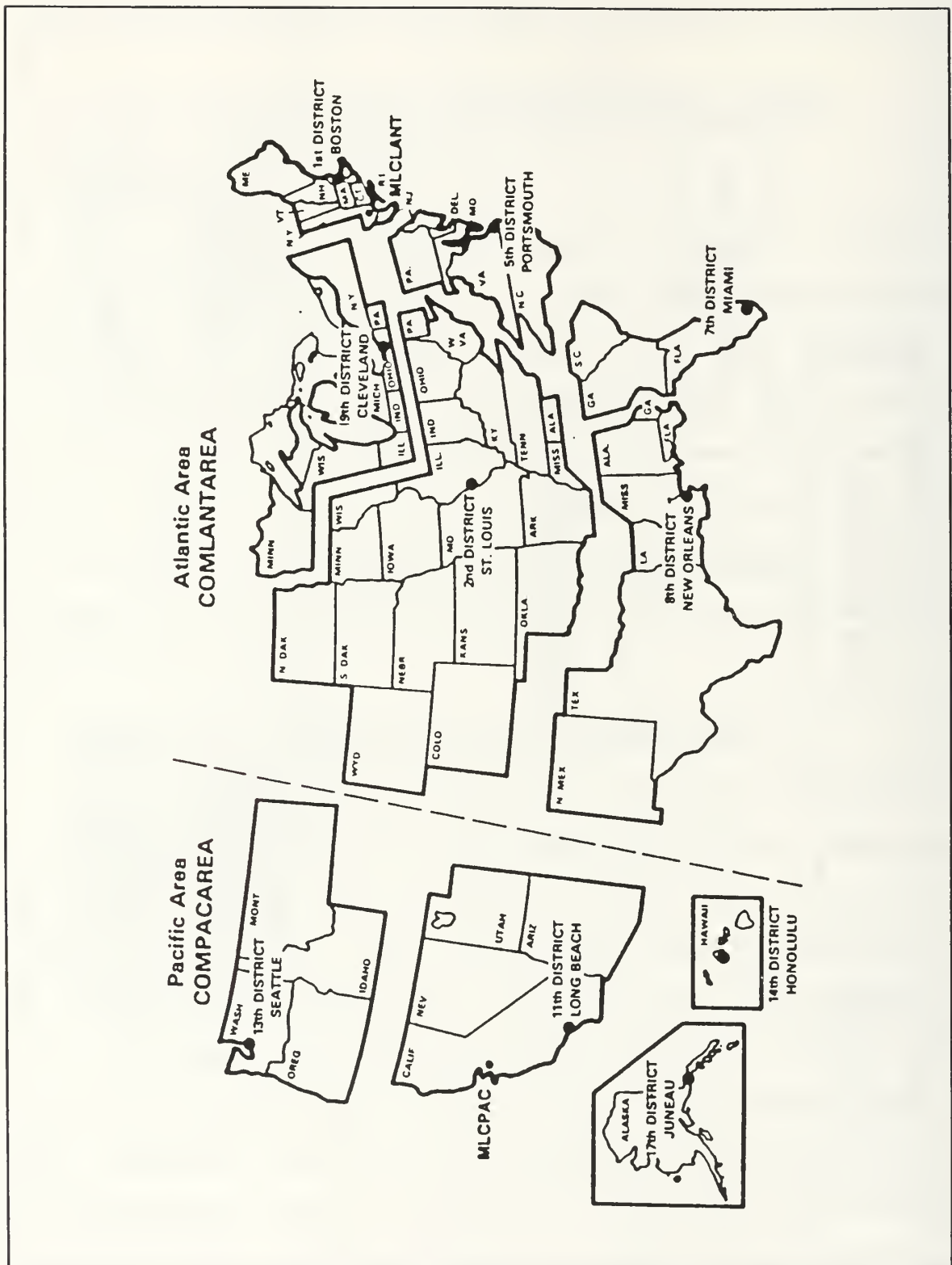


Figure 11 U.S. Coast Guard Geographic Boundaries

Commandant to the area commanders, and from the area commanders to the district and Maintenance and Logistics Command (MLC) commanders, or area units, and then, in turn, to the subordinate operating or logistics units. [Ref. 9:pp. 1.1.9] The following descriptions are of Coast Guard telecommunications elements at the various command/unit levels. Over the years, the Coast Guard's telecommunications organization has changed in both how the structure looks and works, and also in the names used. As time passes, it would not be particularly unusual for this organization to undergo further changes. One example is the possibility of changing the District (dt) Chief of Staff element to a division status.

1. Commandant/Headquarters Level

At the top is the Coast Guard's military service Headquarters located in Washington, DC. One of the ten offices at Coast Guard Headquarters is the Office of Command, Control and Communications (G-T) or Commandant (G-T). The "G" in G-T was assigned by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to keep Coast Guard Headquarters separate from other DOT Washington-area agencies and organizations. The "T" in G-T was a holdover from when the office was called Telecommunications. G-T is "responsible for developing policy for, maintaining managerial oversight of, and acquiring communications, information systems, and electronics equipment support for an effective

command and control network to fulfill Coast Guard management and operational requirements." [Ref 10:p. 3-1]

2. Area Command Level

The Coast Guard Atlantic and Pacific Area Commands are located on Governors Island, New York, NY, and Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA, respectively. Area telecommunications responsibilities are managed by the Information System Division (At/Pt) and the Telecommunications Branch (Att/Ptt). The "A" in At/Att and "P" in Pt/Ptt respectively stand for the Atlantic and Pacific geographic areas of responsibility. These divisions and branches are responsible for planning, evaluating, coordinating, and supervising all changes and upgrades to the overall inter-district system control aspects of telecommunications and information systems within their respective geographic areas of responsibility. This also includes the operation of the area's Telecommunications Center (COMMCEN), and control over the Coast Guard Communications Area Master Stations (CAMS Atlantic and Pacific, respectively), and the Coast Guard Communication Stations (COMMSTAs) within the area command's region. The At and Pt divisions are also respectively assigned as U.S. Naval Atlantic and Pacific Maritime Defense Zones' command N-6 staff element, respectively. [Ref. 9:pp. 3.3.26-3.3.30, Ref. 10:pp. 3-1, 7-4]

3. District Command Level

The Coast Guard has ten district commands located in Boston, MA (First Coast Guard District or Coast Guard District One (CGD1 or D1)); St. Louis (D2), MO; Portsmouth, VA (D5); Miami, FL (D7); New Orleans, LA (D8); Cleveland, OH (D9); Long Beach, CA (D11), Seattle, WA (D13); Honolulu, HI (D14); and Juneau, AK (D17) (see Figure 11). The numbering scheme for these districts corresponds to older and no longer used U.S. Naval Districts.

District telecommunications responsibilities are typically managed by the Information Resources Management Staff (dt) and the Telecommunications Branch (dtm or dttm). This staff and branch are "responsible for the proper planning, organization, operation, inspection, supervision, and coordination of telecommunications for all activities under the control of the district." This includes the operation of the district's COMMCEN. [Ref. 9:p. 4.1.16, Ref. 10:pp. 3-1 - 3-2]

4. Maintenance and Logistics Command Level

The Coast Guard has two MLCs, MLC Atlantic and MLC Pacific, both of which are located at the same geographic locations as the area commands, in New York, NY, and Alameda, CA. In general, the MLCs provide various support services directly to individual units. Telecommunications related support is provided by the Command, Control, and Communica-

tions (C3) Technical Support Division (t) and its Telecommunication Systems Branch (tts). [Ref. 9:pp. 5.1.4, 5.1.46]

5. Headquarters Units

There are various Coast Guard commands that provides service-wide support or support to satisfy a requirement in a specific geographic area. These commands operate under the Commandant, who is assisted by a Headquarters Office Chief who exercises technical control over those Headquarters units. Commandant (G-T) exercises technical control over the following Coast Guard Headquarters units that provide telecommunications-related support: [Ref. 9:pp. 6.1.3 - 6.1.5, 6.1.29, 6.1.31]

- Information Systems Center (ISC), Alexandria, VA
- Electronics Engineering Center (EECEN), Wildwood, NJ
- Operation Systems Center (OSC), Martinsburg, WV

6. Field Units

a. Communications Stations

Under the direction of the area commander, communications stations (COMMSTAs) provide command and control, and other support communications services to afloat units. [Ref. 10:p. 7-4] Message support is primarily intended for vessels located within the COMMSTA's geographic area of responsibility. These commands are the interface between the shoreside and afloat messaging networks and systems.

b. Group Offices

Groups, which are district-level commands, are included because they operate and maintain the Group Telecommunications Systems (GRU COMMSYS), which include messaging systems. The geographic area of responsibility for each district command is subdivided into contiguous groups. The number of groups within each district varies depending on many factors, including the geographic size and missions performed. Each group typically has a COMMCEN that serves as a focal point for all communications activities within the group, including messaging services. Group personnel typically perform search and rescue and law enforcement operations with patrol boats (PBs) and small boats. [Ref. 10:p. 7-7]

C. COAST GUARD TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The CGTS provides "the connectivity to meet all Coast Guard information system telecommunications," with a goal of supporting all Coast Guard missions [Ref. 12:p. 1]. It is a combination of the needs of all of these missions that drives the CGTS. The CGTS includes "the people, facilities, and systems (hardware and software) orchestrated to meet the telecommunications needs of the Coast Guard." A goal for the CGTS is to be "a responsive, robust, and cost effective information transfer system." The CGTS has four principal components: voice, record message, data, and image transmissions. [Ref. 12:p. 1] This thesis is primarily focused

on message-related issues, therefore, voice, data and image transmission issues will not be directly addressed. The phrase "record messages" directly relates to DMS organizational messages. Additionally, in the Coast Guard, E-Mail is considered not only to be what DMS refers to as an individual message, it also includes the system used to send both formal and informal messages. [Ref. 13:pp. 1-2] A formal Coast Guard message directly relates to the DMS organizational message, and an informal Coast Guard message directly relates to the DMS individual message.

1. Definition of the CGTS

The CGTS refers to the radio, telephone, and landline facilities owned, controlled, or used by the Coast Guard, and also includes associated terminal facilities, techniques and procedures. The following are the three major CGTS subsystems:

- Area Telecommunications Systems (AREA COMMSYS) which include the CAMS, the COMMSTAs, COMMCENs, and Transportable Communications Centrals (TCCs).
- District Telecommunications Systems (DIST COMMSYS).
- Group Telecommunications Systems (GRU COMMSYS). [Ref. 10:p. 1-1]

2. CGTS Mission

The mission of the CGTS is to:

- Provide and maintain reliable, secure and rapid telecommunications to meet the needs of Command, Control and Communications (C3) of operational Coast Guard forces.

- Ensure connectivity, compatibility and interoperability with the National Command Authorities (NCA) and Federal Executive Agencies, especially the Navy.
- Provide effective interface with the marine transportation industry and the boating public in support of global distress and safety systems which provide rapid and appropriate aid to vessels, persons and aircraft in distress.
- Provide telecommunications services, including frequency management, record message service, telephone and data service for administrative support of Coast Guard facilities. [Ref. 10:p. 1-1]

Coast Guard telecommunications is conducted according to various Coast Guard directives and standard operating procedures issued by the Commandant, area and district commanders, and at the command/unit level. Coast Guard telecommunications is also guided by International Radio Regulations, joint and allied/combined communications instructions (e.g., JANAPs and ACPs), and Naval Telecommunications Procedures (NTPs). [Ref. 10:p. 1-3]

D. COAST GUARD STANDARD WORKSTATION

In 1981, the Coast Guard contracted with the C3 Corporation for the first Coast Guard Standard Workstation (CGSW). The workstation was originally called the C3, now it is called the CGSW I. The CGSW I was an early, Intel 8086-logic-based, Convergent Technologies Corporation Computer. This standard, service-wide computer was used primarily for office automation in standalone and local area network (LAN) configurations which used the proprietary operating system

called Convergent Technologies Operating System (CTOS). The CGSW I provided advantages of compatibility and connectivity. This low speed PC was able to meet the then growing needs of the Coast Guard due to design capabilities/options such as: modems, storage, printing, programming, and upgrade options. In 1987, C3 Corporation introduced, and the Coast Guard purchased, C3's modular computers which were called "N-GEN" for new generation. By default, the older equipment became known as "O-GEN" for old generation. This new equipment had Intel 80186, 80286, or 80386 processors. The 80386 processor was very expensive and was not widely used due to the limited requirements of the time and the initial purchase costs. [Ref. 14:pp. 51-53, Ref. 15:pp. 5-7]

In 1988, the Coast Guard contracted with the Unisys Corporation for the next generation CGSW, called the CGSW II. Prior to this, Unisys had purchased the Convergent Technologies Corporation, which included CTOS. Unisys was able to deliver the same hardware and software that were in the CGSW I. Also during this contract an agreement was reached for the delivery of Unisys's Burroughs Operating System (BTOS). Developments by the end of 1991 resulted in the merger between CTOS and BTOS with the newer CTOS II version 3.3. The 1988 contract with Unisys is scheduled to end in 1992. The next CGSW contract will require new equipment to be compatible with older systems and also provide new capabilities based on the support of all Coast Guard communications needs. Several

communications related software application programs used on the CGSW are addressed in the following subsections. [Ref. 14:pp. 51-53, Ref. 16:p. 3]

1. Automated Message Preparation

The Automated Message Preparation (AMP) subsystem is used by personnel authorized to draft, review, and transmit record messages. It provides support to the user for basic message formatting. With the AMP, the user can transmit messages to the Coast Guard Data Network using the Information Transfer Distribution System. [Ref. 14:p. 5-23]

2. Information Transfer Distribution System

The Information Transfer Distribution System (ITDS) was formerly called the Message Transfer Distribution System (MTDS). The name change reflects the capability to automatically transfer both messages and data using electronic mail capabilities. For messages, the ITDS takes a message from the outgoing message queue, "wraps" it in an E-Mail envelope (as an attachment to the E-Mail), and sends it to other ITDS E-Mail locations. On the receiving end, the ITDS "unwraps" the E-Mail envelope, and puts the message in the incoming queue. Refer to Figure 12 [Ref. 17:p. 10] for a diagram of this process. The ITDS is configured as an external CGSW circuit and uses an end-to-end encrypted X.25 network for transmission. External circuits, like AUTODIN, are circuits where incoming messages can not be immediately resent to by

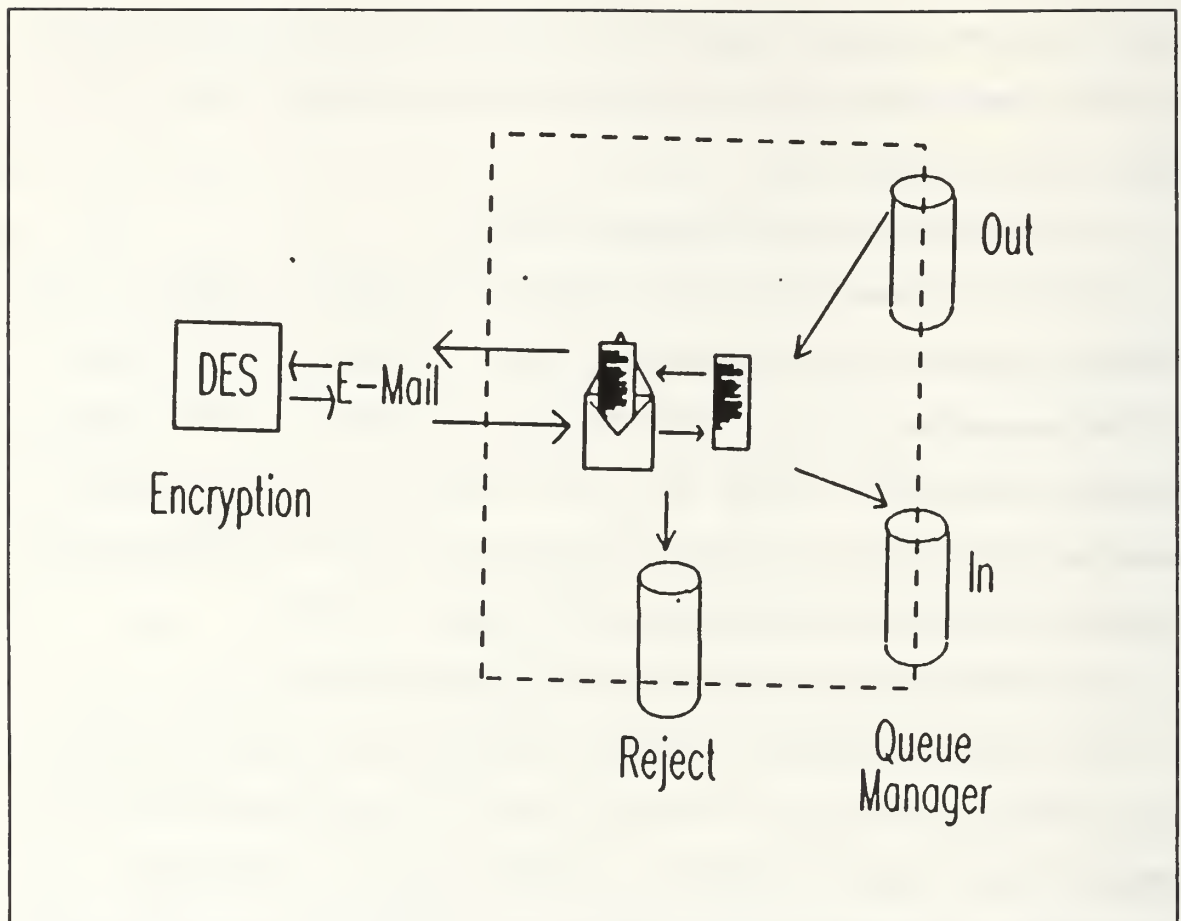


Figure 12 E-Mail Envelope Concept

the ITDS software. This prevents duplicate messages from being resent back onto the external circuits. The encryption device between the CGSW and the X.25 network is the Cipher X5000 Datacryptor. The Cipher X5000 meets the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Data Encryption Standard (DES). The Cipher X5000 has also been endorsed by the National Security Agency (NSA) as having met the requirements of various federal standards. [Ref. 14:p. 5-25, Ref. 17:p. 10,13]

3. X.25 District Network

The X.25 District Network (X25D) is the same as the ITDS, except it uses internal CGSW circuits. The X25D is the designator for the District Level Network which uses the Coast Guard Data Network. Internal circuits are circuits where incoming messages may be resent to by the X25D software. Duplicate message routing may be necessary to ensure delivery to all intended "internal" recipients. The X25D is replacing an older network procedure that used a polling protocol. [Ref. 17:pp. 4, 10]

4. BTOS OFIS Mail

BTOS OFIS Mail (B-Mail) is Unisys's electronic mail system that is used on CGSWs. B-Mail allows messages and separate attachments to be sent transparently from one user/location to another. B-Mail attachments can be either official or unofficial in nature. Examples of official B-Mail attachments can include Coast Guard directives (instructions and notices), correspondence (letters and memorandums), and record messages. Asynchronous B-Mail access is provided by the Terminal Mail Manager. [Ref. 14:p. 5-10]

5. X.25 Applications

Unisys's X.25 Communications Manager and the X.25 Network Gateway programs allow Unisys E-mail to be sent between Coast Guard E-mail centers over an X.25 Public Packet Switched Network (PPSN), such as Sprintnet, and also over the

DDN. The X.25 Communication manager's features include X.25 communications, full duplex operation, multiple connections, simple operation, and authentication. The X.25 Network Gateway application program conforms to CCITT X.25 requirements and also provides the following features: X.21 Circuit Switched Service (CSS) Support, Event Management System (EMS) Support, Multiple Gateway Server (MGS) Support, DDN Support, and X.25 Agent. The CCITT X.25 requirements define the interface between PPSNs and user devices, called Data Terminal Equipment (DTE), operating in a packet switched mode. This gateway program addresses the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) lower three layers, which are called the physical, data link, and network layers. [Ref. 18, Ref. 19]

6. Standard Semi-Automated Message Processing System

The Standard Semi-Automated Message Processing System (SSAMPS) is the Coast Guard's record message routing system that directs the flow of record messages based on plain language addressees (PLAs). Messages are received, transmitted, and routed between external circuits (the ITDS and the AUTODIN) and internal circuits (X25D). All Coast Guard record message circuits or networks terminate at a SSAMPS. These different circuits can have different communications protocols. Refer to Figure 13 [Ref. 14:p. 5-52] for a diagram of the processes involved with CGSW SSAMPS. Incoming messages received from a circuit are automatically put into an

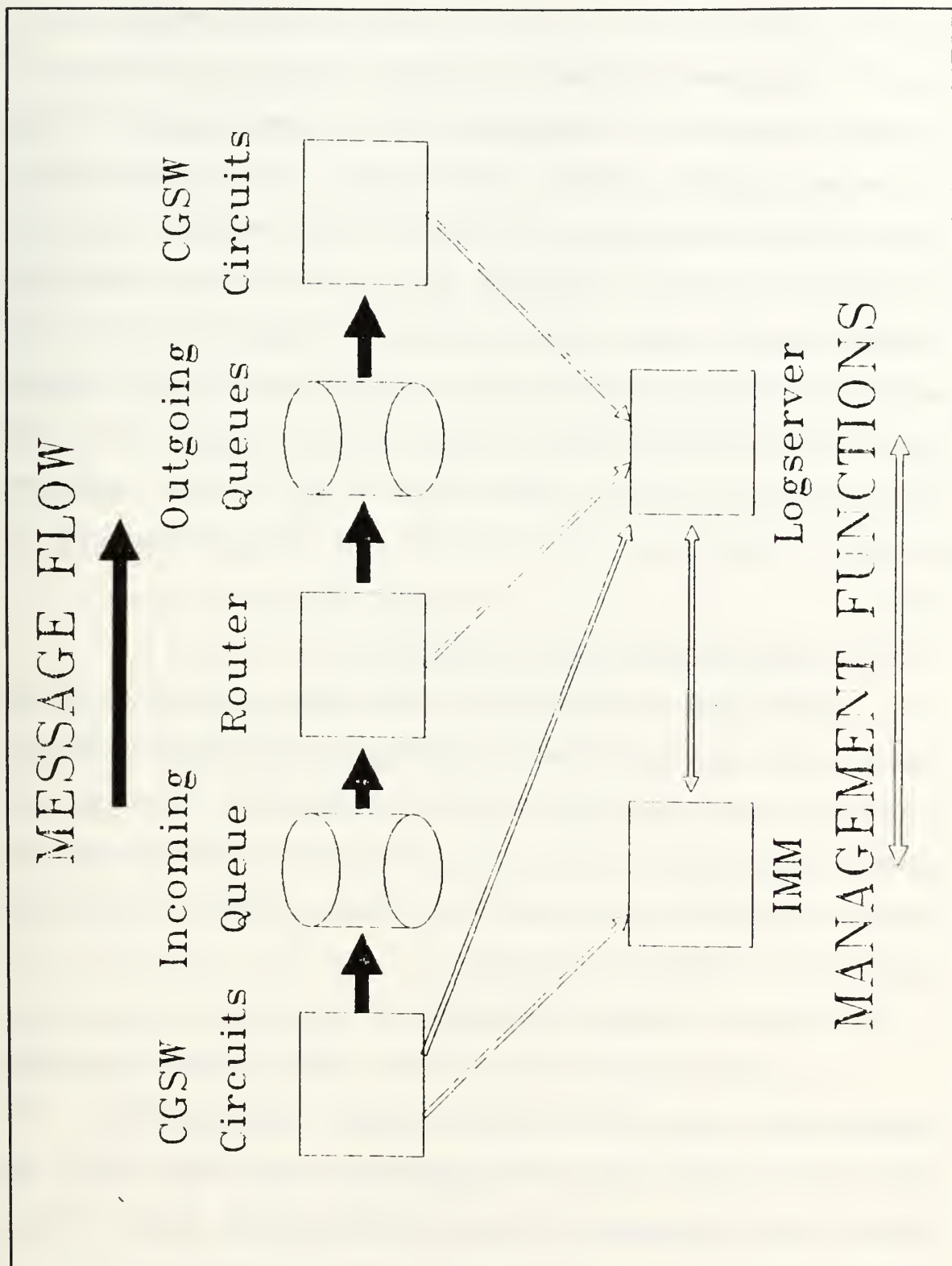


Figure 13 CGSW SSAMPS Overview

incoming queue based on the precedence of the message. The router background application program routes the message to appropriate outgoing message queues for automatic transmission to the appropriate desired circuit, and also automatically sends an electronic copy to an archive data base for storage. The Log Server (LOG or LOGSERV) is the log keeping background software program that receives and can provide information on system and message statuses. The Interactive Message Manager (IMM) is a foreground menu-driven software program that the user/operator uses to monitor and control the message processing software. [Ref. 17:pp. 3-5, Ref. 14:pp. 5-52 - 5-54]

7. SORTS Message Writing Utility

This utility program assists users in creating SORTS readiness related messages by duplicating the SORTS worksheet for data input, and then properly formatting the data for message transmission [Ref. 14:p. 5-34]. This is one example of how an automation program can assist users in creating specifically formatted messages.

8. Network Security Software

The Network Security Software (NSS) allows the system manager/user to specifically select which volumes and directories remote users may access at Coast Guard nodes. By default, the entire system is protected. [Ref. 14:p. 5-30]

E. NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS

Coast Guard policy calls for long haul data and record traffic transmissions to be accomplished on record or data networks such as a Public Data Network (PDN), such as Sprintnet (formerly called Telenet); the AUTODIN and the DDN (addressed in Chapter II); and the Coast Guard's Secure Data Network (SDN) (formerly called the Secure Command and Control Network (SCCN)). Short haul connections are accomplished in a variety of forms which include the use of modems over telephone lines, Coast Guard microwave, and dedicated cables/lines. [Ref. 10:p. 9-2; Ref. 20:p. iv]

1. Coast Guard Data Network

The Coast Guard Data Network (CGDN), previously called the Hybrid Data Network (HDN), is a reliable, high speed, and relatively inexpensive data and record message network used to electronically connect Coast Guard commands and units. In 1991/1992 the network was both public and private. It was public from the perspective that the Coast Guard uses a PPSN, called Sprintnet, and is private in that it uses Coast Guard-owned/operated hardware (computers, switches, and cables). [Ref. 20]

In 1991/1992 the CGDN is in a significant change status and is being reconfigured in order to convert the network to an all-private network through FTS 2000 data connections between Coast Guard-owned switches (TP4) and

concentrators (TP3). Figure 14 [Ref. 21] shows the future CGDN private network backbone. TP4 Packet Switching Nodes (PSNs) are located at Coast Guard Headquarters, at area/MLC (LANT and PAC) and district commands, and the Coast Guard Operations Systems Center. The 1991/1992 situation shows that these PSNs use Sprintnet for connectivity. In the future, these PSNs will be interconnected by dedicated lines capable of handling 56,000 bits per second (56K BPS) of information (64K BPS if control information is included). The CGDN uses the CCITT X.25 standard for packetized data transmissions. In addition to the TP4 data switches and TP3 concentrators, the CGDN also uses microwave and modem equipment. This and other communication equipment make the CGDN a hybrid data network

The CGDN uses the E-mail architecture, that is, a hierarchical network of CGSW mail centers, with a post office mail center serving as the router for subordinate mail centers or nodes (if any) on a multiple CGSW cluster or LAN. This hierarchical network of mail centers calls for a standard Coast Guard-wide naming convention and directory, that will support OSI standards and compatibility with the Internet. These procedures are contained in COMDTINST 5270.1 [Ref. 13]. [Ref. 20:p. 4-1, Ref. 22:p. 10]

2. Automatic Digital Network

As addressed in Chapter II, the AUTODIN is a non-Coast Guard network. It is a DOD store-and-forward message switched

network that is managed and controlled by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). This network is primarily used by the Coast Guard for long-haul classified message transmissions, and it also provides interoperability between the Coast Guard and DOD, including the U.S. Navy and others. The U.S. Navy sponsors and pays for the Coast Guard's access to the AUTODIN, and therefore the Coast Guard is a non-claimant user of the network. [Ref. 22]

Appendix A [Ref. 22] identifies the Coast Guard locations that have access to AUTODIN, and the AUTODIN connection locations, such as an AUTODIN Switching Center (ASC), an Automated Message Processing Exchange (AMPE), or a Telecommunication Center (TCC). All of these Coast Guard locations either presently have or are in the process of reconfiguring to Zenith/INTEQ Inc's Message Distribution Terminal to connect with the AUTODIN. The following subsection describes this terminal.

a. Message Distribution Terminal

In February 1991, the Coast Guard formally decided to begin the transition from the then-labor-intensive, torn-paper-tape type AUTODIN-related hardware to the automated Message Distribution Terminal (MDT). Prior to 1991, the Coast Guard had fielded MDTs at the Pacific Area's COMMCEN to meet the messaging needs of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command's (USCINCPAC's) Joint Task Force 5 (JTF 5) and

Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet's (CINCPACFLT's) Maritime Defense Zone Pacific (MDZPAC). [Ref. 24] JTF 5 is a tenant DOD command at Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA, and MDZPAC is a combined command with Coast Guard Pacific Area.

Figure 15 [Ref. 25] shows a simplified April 1992 configuration of messaging networks and systems at the Pacific Area's COMMCEN. They used a three MDT configuration. This configuration is different from other locations, such as the D13 COMMCEN, because of the additional routing requirements for JTF 5. One MDT is used for routing incoming and outgoing messages to AMME Oakland. Incoming and outgoing messages for JTF 5 and Coast Guard Pacific Area/MDZPAC are routed to Pacific Area's MDT. The Pacific Area's MDT then routes as follows: (1) it routes JTF 5 messages to their MDT for further JTF 5 routing, (2) it routes classified Pacific Area/MDZPAC messages to the Coast Guard's SDN/STU-III for further classified routing, and (3) it routes Pacific Area/MDZPAC unclassified/encrypted for transmission only/for official use only (UNCLAS/EFTO/FOUO) messages to a CGSW with the Coast Guard's SSAMPS for further unclassified message routing. [Ref. 25]

The MDT is a PC-AT hardware and software based system that is relatively inexpensive, user friendly, and upgradable to new computer technology. It consists of a workstation and monitor that is available in either the TEMPEST or non-TEMPEST configurations. Refer to Figure 16

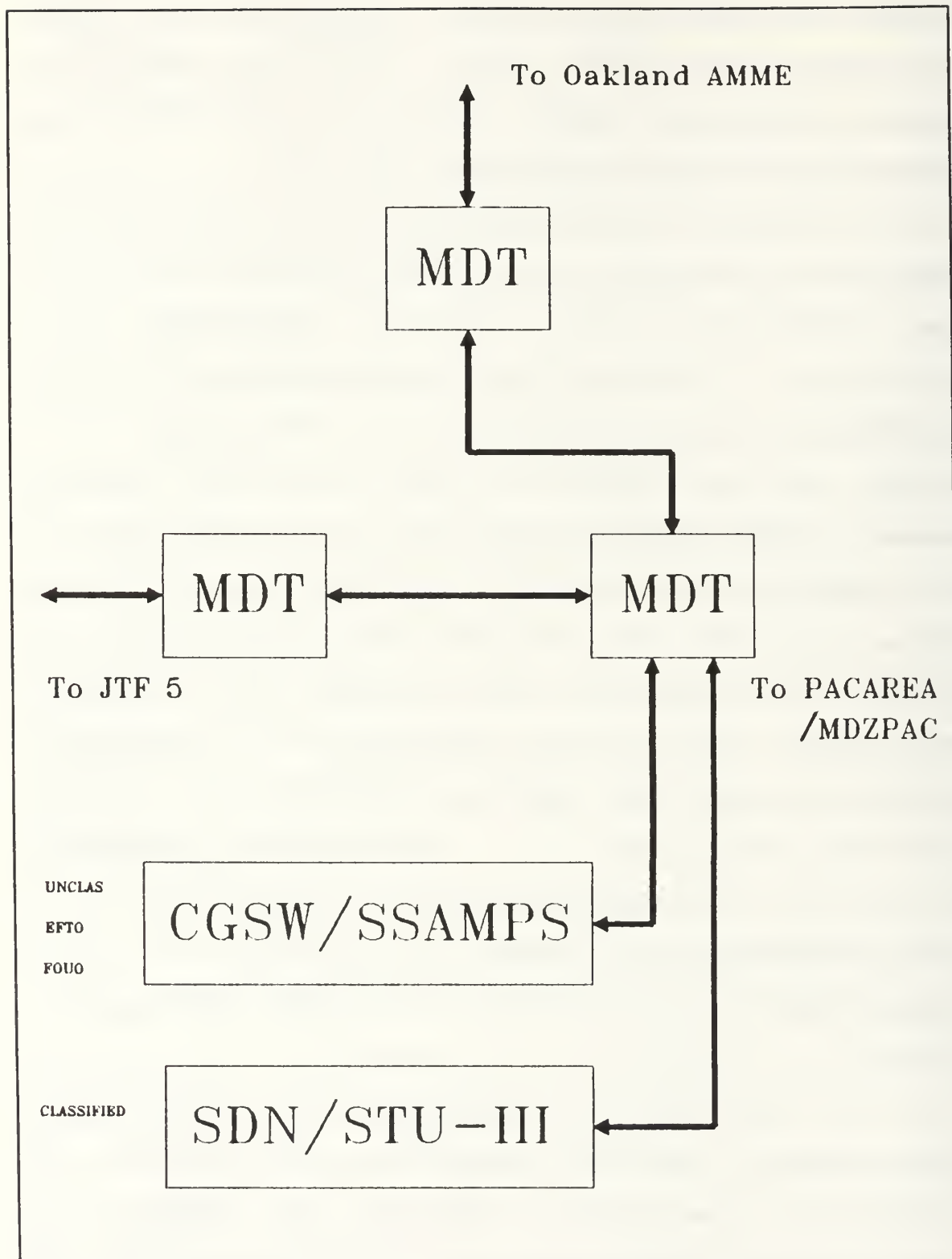


Figure 15 CG Pacific Area COMMCEN's MDT Connections

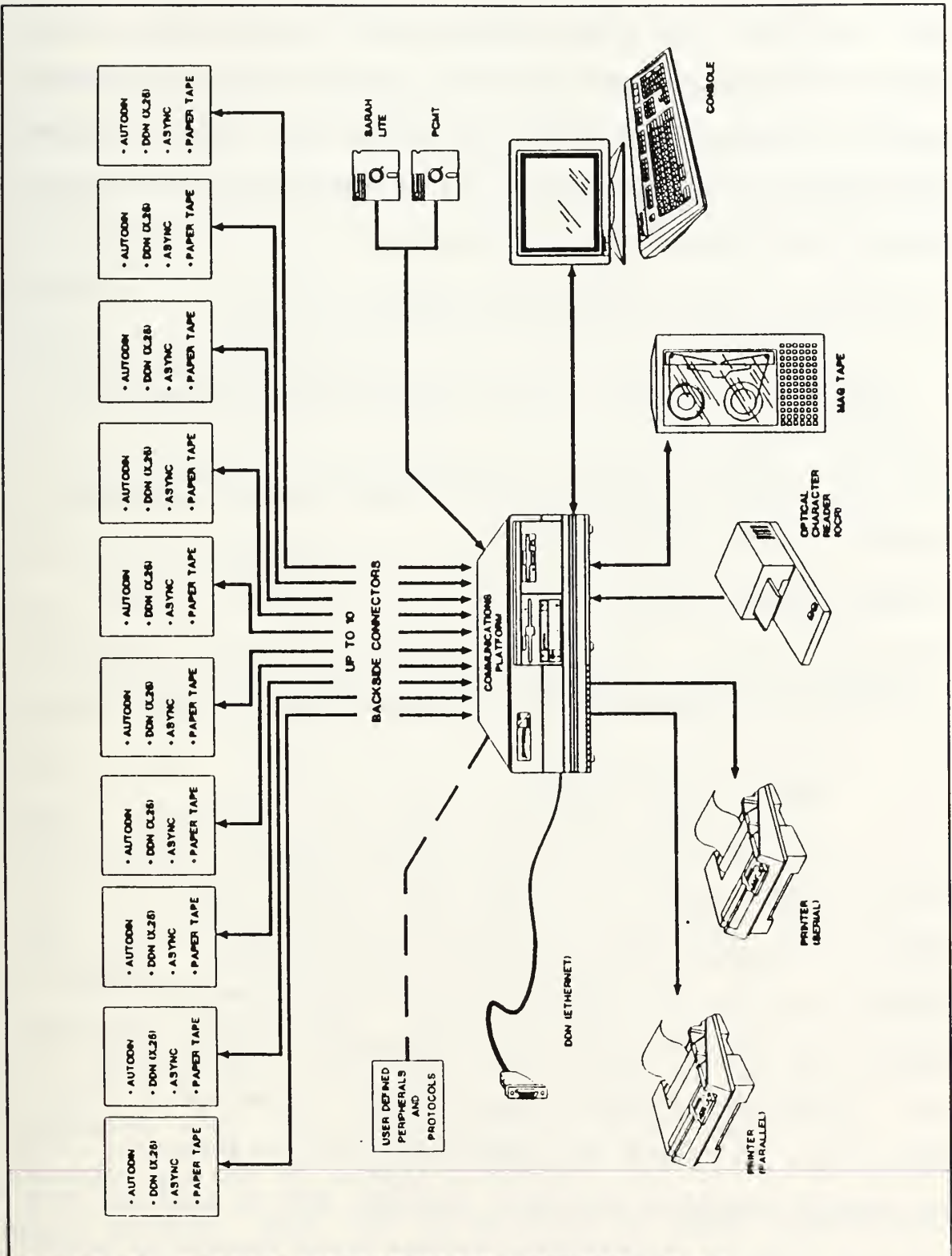


Figure 16 Message Distribution Terminal (MDT)

[Ref. 26:p. 2] for Zenith/INTEQ's MDT diagram. The MDT's software is written in the DOD's mandated Ada programming language, and this software, combined with the hardware workstation (together called the communication platform), provides the following capabilities:

- Implements JANAP 128 AUTODIN message format.
- Provides AUTODIN message preparation and transmission with the capability to use other message system and protocol.
- Allows system security administrator to manage and control all systems accesses, and allows or prohibits any function to any user.
- Provides capability to mix and match message protocols and message formats.
- Allows users to specify system-wide values, device security levels, automatic backup criteria, security levels for equipment, and alternate devices. [Ref. 26]

3. Defense Data Network

Refer to Chapter II for details on the Defence Data Network (DDN). Like the command and control connections to AUTODIN, the Coast Guard has similar connections to the DDN. Appendix B [Ref. 27] identifies the Coast Guard's DSNET 1 connections which the Coast Guard pays for. These connection are accomplished through the use of a modem or a direct connection. In 1992 these connections are not generally used for message transport purposes, however, DDN is used for data purposes such as connectivity to the Joint Chiefs of Staff-sponsored, multi-agency Anti-Drug Network (ADNET). ADNET is a

command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) network created to pass real-time counternarcotics information between the DOD and various Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), which includes the Coast Guard. DDN connectivity is also used for interface to a number of other intelligence systems, such as the Joint Maritime Intelligence Element (JMIE), Zincludust, and Emerald. [Ref. 27]

4. Secure Data Network

The Coast Guard's Secure Data Network (SDN) provides a capability for secure data and record message communications up to the Top Secret level using a CGSW-based system. The SDN is a computer terminal connected to a special STU-III secure telephone. The SDN provides small units, both afloat and ashore, with automated classified messaging capabilities and connections to larger shore units, such as COMMSTAs, and group, district, and area commands. These small units typically have relatively low volumes of classified messages, where the sending and receiving of messages requires a messenger to deliver and/or pick up messages from a distant messaging center. [Ref. 16:p. 2] Connections to SDN hardware is accomplished in four ways: (1) through the use of a secure dedicated line, (2) through STU-III dial-in/dial-out, (3) through the use of floppy diskettes, and (4) to an output paper printer. [Ref. 25] In addition to these connections, messages can be created at the SDN/CGSW keyboard.

5. Federal Telephone System 2000

The Federal Telephone System 2000 (FTS 2000) is a U.S. Sprint and AT&T operated, and General Services Agency (GSA) managed, centralized network that will provide both telephone and data communications. The U.S. Coast Guard falls under the AT&T portion of the FTS 2000. FTS 2000 services include circuit-switched voice or data, dedicated data, packet-switched data, video, and switched digital integrated services. ISDN capabilities are projected to be available during or after 1992. [Ref. 14:p. 5-44]

F. FUTURE PLANS

In March 1991, the Coast Guard held a telecommunications conference in Virginia Beach, VA (commonly referred to as VBII), "to assess the current technical and management status of the Office of G-T and to set the direction for the 1990's." The conference used Total Quality Management (TQM) concepts "to create a vision, understand the current business processes, to develop new designs for business processes, and to evaluate the implementation of the new designs." [Ref. 28]

1. Vision Statement

The Coast Guard's messaging-related plans are related to three of the five components of G-T's vision statement for the year 2000 (developed at VBII). These components addressed universal access and satisfying customer, user, and

organizational needs. These three components of this vision statement are:

- Every Coast Guard unit has universal access to all telecommunications and information services regardless of geographic location, unit size, platform, type of transmission (e.g., data, voice, video, text), and security requirements.
- G-T anticipates and satisfies emerging customer needs by providing users with information required to solve business problems.
- The Coast Guard telecommunications system enables the organization to change its business processes. [Ref. 28:Appendix D]

2. Initiatives For 1995 Accomplishment

A goal for the CGTS is to expand telecommunications' supervisors, managers and staff attentions towards the customers who use and depend on the CGTS. To do this, the Coast Guard must look beyond the traditional telecommunication facilities (COMMSTAs and COMMCENs) and into the end user environment. [Ref. 28:p. 20]

Three key strategic objectives to meet this goal were identified at VBII as: (1) COMMCEN re-engineering, including reducing the size/staffing or elimination through automation, (2) Reducing the burden of the Communications Security (COMSEC) Material System (CMS), and (3) COMMSTA re-engineering. The benefits of these three initiatives will be reinvestable resources (personnel and money), improved services (faster and more reliable), and reduced

administrative burdens. A common key to these initiatives is the automation of manual processes, which include over-the-air rekeying of cryptographic equipment. COMMCENS and COMMSTAS will become fully or near fully automated. Overall network and systems management will focus multi-purpose uses versus single use, such as looking at the improved transmission and routing of all types of data, not just one type (e.g., messages). One additional recommendation (from many recommendations) specifically addresses the need to "define DOD gateways and needed interfaces (NAVCOMPARS, ADNET, DDN, AUTODIN, voice)." [Ref. 28:pp. 20-23] Chapter IV will address these issues with emphasis on messages.

IV. STANDARDS AND INTERFACES

This chapter addresses the primary Open System Interface (OSI) standards and protocols that impact on messaging services. Also addressed is a description of various computer interfaces. The importance of an open system is that it "is a system capable of communicating with other open systems by virtue of implementing common international standard protocols." [Ref. 29:p. viii]

A. STANDARDS

1. Government Open Systems Interconnection Profile

The Government Open Systems Interconnection Profile (GOSIP) is an overall standard applicable to all Federal Government agencies. It "defines a common set of data communication protocols that enable systems developed by different vendors to interoperate and the users of different applications on those systems to exchange information" [Ref 29:p. 1]. The four objectives of the GOSIP are:

- To achieve interconnection and interoperability of computers and systems that are acquired from manufacturers in a open system environment;
- To reduce the costs of computer network systems by increasing alternative sources of supply;
- To facilitate the use of advanced technology by the Federal Government; and

- To stimulate the development of commercial products compatible with the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) standards." [Ref. 29:p. 1]

The GOSIP standards apply to the DOD and the DOT/USCG when acquiring computer networking products and services, or communications systems and services that provide equivalent functionalities required by those standards. Non-GOSIP related products can include both proprietary and nonproprietary protocols, and features and options of OSI protocols not included in the most recent edition to the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 146-series [Ref. 29], which is the primary GOSIP publication. Future editions of the FIPS Pub 146-series will include OSI protocols that provide additional functionalities. The GOSIP standards are not intended to limit computer/ telecommunications acquisitions, as agencies are permitted to purchase network products in addition to those specified in FIPS Pub 146-series. Waivers to GOSIP standards can be obtained if compliance with a standard would adversely affect the accomplishment of a mission, or if a standard would cause a major financial impact that would not be offset by government-wide savings. [Ref. 29:pp. 1-2]

An example of the inclusion of the GOSIP requirements for future CGSW contracts is shown in the 'Concepts of Operations for the Future' section to the May 1991 CGSW Requirement Analysis [Ref. 14]. The GOSIP is specified as one

of the key technologies required to support Coast Guard policies. [Ref. 14:pp 5-59 - 5-62]

To better understand what GOSIP is, one needs to understand the basics of the OSI Reference Model. The following section will address this model, then additional information on GOSIP Version 2 will be provided. Some of the OSI Reference Model layers addressed below have been subdivided into sub-layers that perform certain functions. Examples of this will be shown in the GOSIP Version 2 and Interface sections to this chapter. Additionally, a specific product/protocol may span one or more layers due to functions performed. This flexibility allows for the creation of different standard protocols to manage and address different communications requirements.

2. OSI Reference Model

The OSI Reference Model, also called the OSI Seven-Layer Model, provides a framework and a plan with which to develop a series of protocols. The model itself is not a software program. Protocols are "a formal set of conventions governing the format and control of inputs and outputs between two communications devices," the rules by which computers talk to each other. [Ref. 30:p. 554]

Figure 17 [Ref. 30:p. 320] shows how the seven layers interreact. The concept of theoretical virtual links or circuits between similar layers is included in Figure 17. The

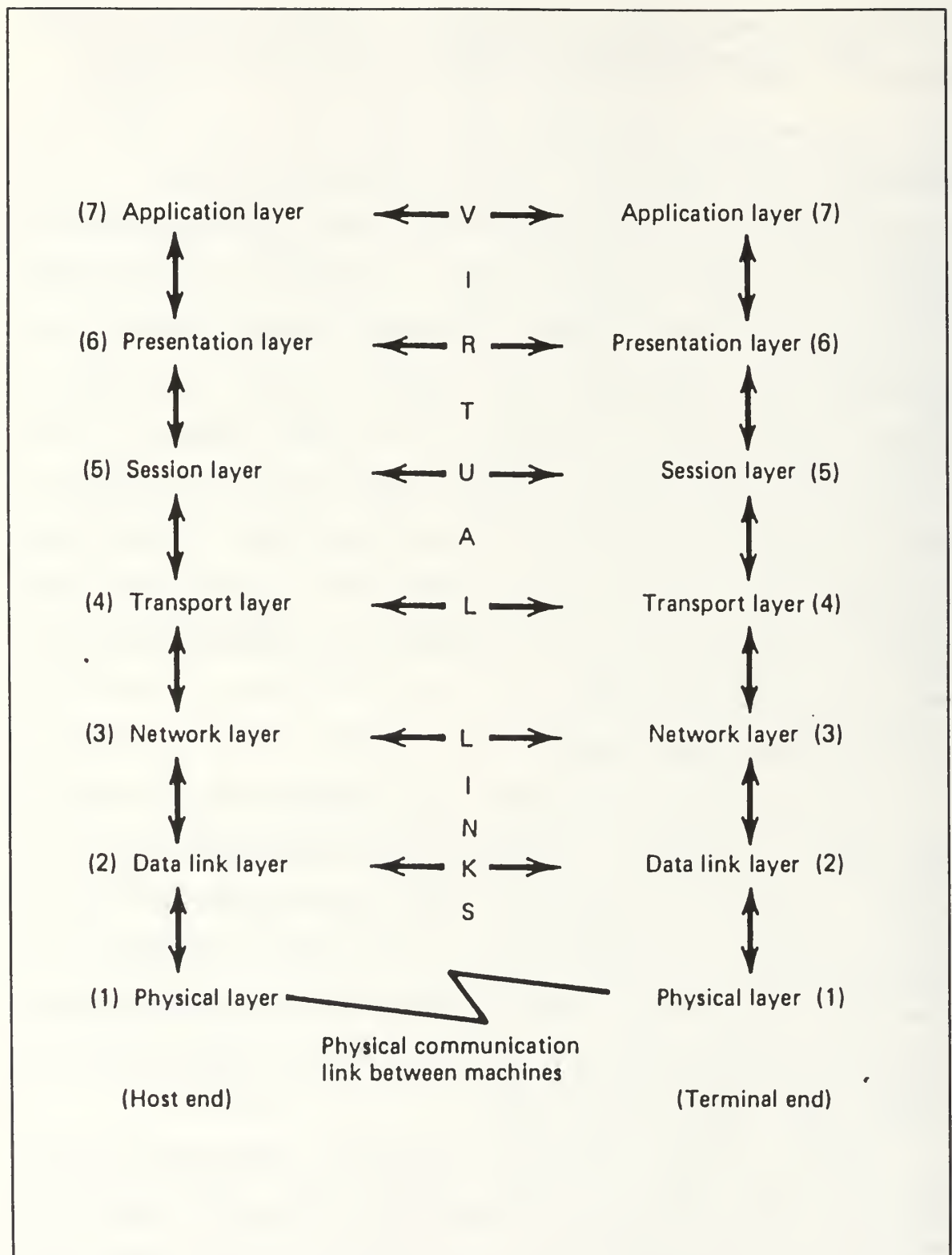


Figure 17 OSI Reference Model

virtual links between Layers 2 through 7 perform operations that are transparent to the functions performed at lower layers. A virtual link appears to be a physical point-to-point connection, but it is not, as the physical connection occurs at Layer 1. Each layer provides a service to the above layer by communicating via a virtual link with its corresponding layer in another computer/system. For example, to the user, the Application Layer-to-Application Layer communications occur transparent to the activities occurring at lower layers. In actuality, this communication from Layer 7-to-Layer 7 starts at Layer 7 on one computer/system. Then it is passed down sequentially through Layers 6 to Layer 1 (where the physical connection occurs) and physically connects to the next computer/system at the Layer 1 level. Then the communication is passed up from Layers 1 to Layer 7 on the second computer/system. The seven layers to the OSI Reference Model are as follows:

a. Physical Layer (Layer 1)

The Physical Layer is the lowest layer and it provides a physical connection for transmission of all data bits (zeroes and ones) over a communications circuit. Issues addressed at this layer include voltages, timing factors (bits per second (BPS)), rules for connecting and disconnecting, and connector/cable/modem standards (e.g., RS-232, RS-530, or V.35). All communications between higher level virtual

circuits are passed down to this layer for the actual movement of all control and information related data. [Ref. 30:p. 321, Ref. 29:p. 11]

b. Data Link Layer (Layer 2)

The Data Link Layer, sometimes referred to as the Data Link Control Layer, provides machine-to-machine protocols to ensure error-free management of the data bit transmissions occurring at Layer 1. Layer 2 interfaces closely with the Layer 3, the Network Layer. Issues addressed in Layer 2 can include frame formatting, frame transmission, error detection, correction, retransmission, flow control, and control characters. Examples of Data Link level protocols include X.25, High-level Data Link Control (HDLC), Media Access Control (MAC), and Logical Link Control (LLC). MAC and LLC are sometimes referred to as sublayers to the Data Link Layer. [Ref. 30:pp. 321-322, Ref. 29:p. 10]

c. Network Layer (Layer 3)

The Network Layer provides addressing and routing services that assist in providing transport services through a network or interconnected networks. This layer controls the operations of the combined layers 1, 2, and 3, which is sometimes called the subnetwork or the packet switching network function. Issues addressed in Layer 3 can include the message routing between networks, flow control, end-to-end acknowledgements, load-leveling the volume of transmissions on

any given circuit, and management/accounting functions. [Ref. 30:pp 322-323, Ref. 29:p. 10]

d. Transport Layer (Layer 4)

The Transport Layer, sometimes referred to as the host-to-host or end-to-end layer, establishes, maintains, and terminates logical or virtual connections between two session entities, and in general, provides reliable and transparent data transfer. The functions of this layer are transparent to the Session Layer, Layer 5. Transport level protocols include connection-orientated or connectionless mode services. Issues addressed in Layer 4 can include the optimization of available network services, network and user addressing, data assurance (control), multiplexing, transport headers, and the flow control of messages between simple or complex networks. [Ref. 30:pp. 323-324, Ref. 29:p. 10]

e. Session Layer (Layer 5)

The Session Layer, sometimes referred to as the Data Flow Control Layer, is responsible for initiating, maintaining, and terminating each logical session (not connection) between the user's applications or processes. A session is the dialogue or exchange of information between computers. Issues addressed in Layer 5 can include the management and structuring of all session-requested data transport actions, logging on to circuit equipment, transferring files between equipment, terminal emulations,

security authenticators, maintaining data flow control to avoid buffer overflow, and management/accounting functions. The Session Layer works closely with the Transport Layer to handle Application Layer functions. [Ref. 30:pp. 324-325, Ref. 29:p. 10]

f. Presentation Layer (Layer 6)

The Presentation Layer specifies the way data is presented to the end user (e.g., displaying, formatting, and editing of user inputs and outputs), or the way information is presented for exchange between application level functions. Issues addressed in Layer 6 include file and protocol conversions between different or incompatible computers, message transformation and formatting, encryption, compaction, peripheral device coding, and video screen formatting (e.g., lines per screen, characters per line, and cursor addressing). This layer is concerned with the format or syntax of data or data structures, not with the content of the data. [Ref. 30:p. 325, Ref. 29:p. 10]

g. Application Layer (Layer 7)

The Application Layer is the highest layer, and it provides user access to the system or network. This layer provides protocols and utilities for a user to interface and use application software programs. This layer is concerned with the content of data, not with how it is presented or transferred. The X.400 Message Handling System (MHS) includes

functions performed by both Layer 7 and Layer 6. Issues addressed at Layer 7 include network monitoring and management statistics, remote system initiation and termination, and functions to make the network appear transparent to the user. [Ref. 30:pp. 325-326, Ref. 29:p. 10]

3. GOSIP Version 2

As the name states, a second version to the initial release of the GOSIP has been published (in Ref. 29). The new protocols in version 2 went into effect on 3 October 1991. Like future versions of GOSIP, version 2 has included all of the protocols included in the previous version plus new or updated protocols. These newer protocols provide new services that are useful to federal agencies. [Ref. 29:p. 2]

a. Architecture

Figure 18 [Ref. 29:p. 9] shows the GOSIP Version 2 OSI architecture. As can be seen in Figure 18, the OSI Reference Model is included as a background to the architecture.

The lower layers contain six available subnetwork technologies that provide users with options that best meet their physical, performance, and cost requirements. These six subnetwork technologies are: (1) the Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN), (2) the X.25 Packet Data Network (PDN), (3) the point-to-point High-level Data Link Control (HDLC) Link Access Procedure B (LAP B) services, (4) the

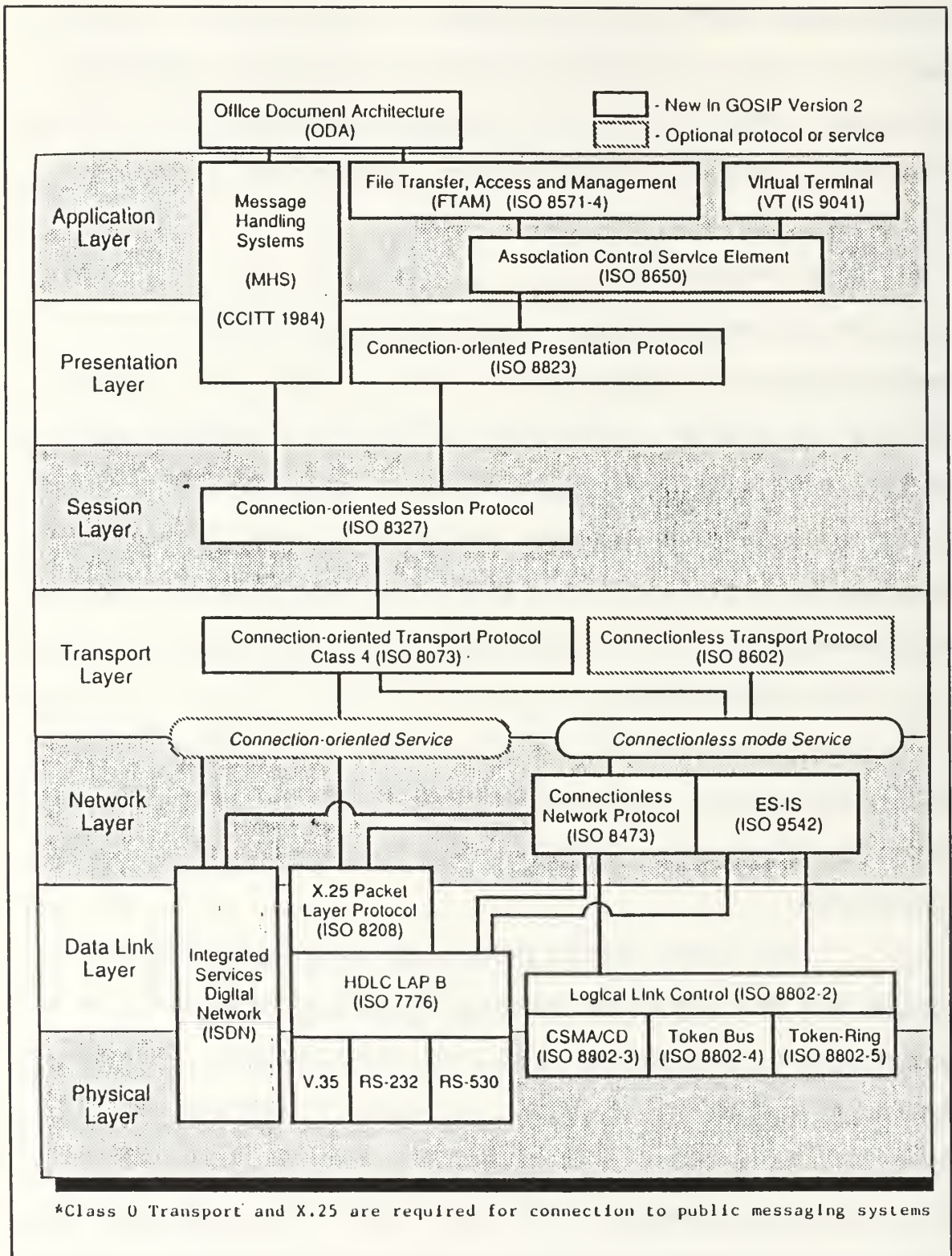


Figure 18 GOSIP Version 2 OSI Architecture

Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD), (5) the Token-Bus, and (6) the Token-Ring. The CSMA/CD, Token-Bus, and Token-Ring technologies are typically used in small or local area networks (LANS), and are controlled by the Logical Link Control (LLC). The X.25 PLP operates in conjunction with the HDLC LAP B in either the connection-oriented or connectionless mode. The HDLC LAP B can also function independent of the X.25 PLP when it is operated in the point-to-point connectionless mode. The X.25 (like the one the Coast Guard uses) and ISDN services are typically associated with wide area networks (WANs). [Ref. 29:pp. 7-9]

GOSIP Version 2 requires the mandatory use of connection-oriented session and transport-level protocols. The upper layer function of interest is the X.400 MHS. The Office Document Architecture (ODA) is considered to be above the top level, Layer 7 (Application Layer), because it not an OSI protocol. ODA is included in GOSIP Version 2 because "it provides services required by federal agencies, and the information specified by the standards can be transported by the OSI" MHS Application layer protocols. [Ref. 29:pp. 9-10]

A goal for GOSIP Version 2 is to provide guidance for standard applications operating over networks using standard protocols. The purchaser/user determines the required applications and networks, and GOSIP defines required minimum protocols. [Ref. 29:p. 10]

For example, the Coast Guard needs a messaging capability over an X.25 network. GOSIP defines that the minimum standards are the X.400 MHS, a Connection-oriented Session Protocol, a Connection-oriented Transport Protocol, a Connectionless Network Protocol, an X.25 Packet Layer Protocol (PLP), an HDLC LAP B, and three options for physical-level connections (V.35, RS-232, and RS-530) based on the requirements for the speed of communications. Additional requirements can be added to these to meet the needs of the users.

This example is for a source or destination end system (ES) that "contains the application processes that are the ultimate sources and destinations of user oriented message flows" and addresses all seven layers of the OSI Reference Model [Ref. 29:p. 10]. There are intermediate systems (ISs), or interfaces (addressed in the next section), that connect two or more networks. This type of interface typically performs the routing and relaying of message flows, however, GOSIP only addresses the lower three OSI Reference Model layers for these intermediate systems. Additional functionalities need to be specified by the purchaser/user for these interface devices. [Ref. 29:pp. viii, 10, 12]

b. Protocols

GOSIP requires that at least one of the six lower layer technologies/protocols and a connectionless network

layer protocol be selected for both end and intermediate systems. Services provided by the connection-oriented transport (transport class 4) and session layer protocols are minimum GOSIP requirements for end systems. Appropriate application and presentation-level protocols are also selected for end systems. Exceptions for messaging services are included in the subsections below. In general, intermediate systems operate in the connectionless mode, however, the connection-oriented mode may be used to interconnect X.25 or ISDN networks. [Ref. 29:pp. 12, 19]

(1) *Physical Layer.* GOSIP Version 2 only recommends the use of various types of physical interface standards; there are no mandated standards. These recommended standards fit into three groupings: ISDN, X.25, and LAN. For LANS, three commonly used standards are the previously mentioned CSMA/CD, Token-Ring, and Token-Bus technologies. [Ref. 29:p. 12]

ISDN services provides for basic rate interface (BRI: 2B + D) and primary rate interface (PRI: 23B + D). Both BRI and PRI services provide one signaling channel (D) that is used to direct the transmission of digitized voice and data being sent on the 64,000 bps switched information, or bearer, channel (B). BRI provides two switched B channels, and one 16,000 bps D channel. PRI provides 23 switched B channels, and one 64,000 bps D channel. The PRI's D channel can also be

used to transmit information like a B channel. [Ref. 31:pp. 382-383, Ref. 29:p. 13]

X.25 standards commonly used include the RS-232-C, the V.35, and the RS-530. The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) RS-232-C and the CCITT V.35 specified physical interfaces are used for line speeds up to 19,200 bps, and the EIA RS-530 for transfer rates over 20,000 bps. [Ref. 29:p. 13]

(2) *Data Link Layer*. Like the Physical Layer, the Data Link Layer protocols can be divided into three groups: ISDN, HDLC LAP B, and LANs. For ISDN there are two protocols for transfer of information on the B or D channels. For the ISDN B channel, a LAP B is used, and for the D channel, a LAP D is used. The HDLC LAP B is used in conjunction with X.25 or point-to-point subnetworks. For LANs, the Logical Link Control 1 is used. [Ref. 29:p. 13]

(3) *Network Layer*. Connectionless Network Services (CLNS) provided by end systems are required to ensure both local and long-haul interoperability for the federal government. The Connectionless Network Protocol (CLNP) is the standard. An optional standard for ISDN and X.25 services is the combination of the Connection-oriented Network Service (CONS) and the X.25 PLP. This is used for interoperation with end systems (e.g., non-federal government agencies or businesses) that do not implement the CLNP. [Ref. 29:p. 14]

As addressed earlier, X.25 describes the protocol governing the interface between a computer (called a packet mode Data Terminal Equipment (DTE)) and a packet switched network. [Ref. 31:p. 168]

(4) *Transport Layer.* As with the CLNS, the class 4 Connection-oriented Transport Services (COTS) provided by end systems are required to ensure reliable end-to-end interoperability for the federal government. The Connection-oriented Transport Protocol is the standard. The Connectionless Transport Service (CLTS) is also an additional option for interoperation with non-GOSIP protocols. Transport class 0 (per CCITT X.400 recommendations) is used in conjunction with CONS and X.25 for connections to public data network messaging services. [Ref. 29:pp. 10, 12, 16]

(5) *Session Layer.* Connection-oriented session services are required through the use of a vendor-provided Connection-oriented Session Protocol. Functions required by this protocol are determined by the application layer protocols used. [Ref. 29:p. 16]

(6) *Presentation and Application Layers.* These layers are addressed together through the use of the CCITT X.400 MHS, which has been addressed in Chapter II. GOSIP requires the MHS to provide all Message Transfer Services and Interpersonal Messaging Services. [Ref. 29:p. 17]

B. INTERFACE DEVICES

Before addressing DMS/CGTS interface issues, it is important to have a basic understanding of what types of interface devices or intermediate systems exist. In general, interfaces include repeaters, bridges, routers, and gateways. The following section will address these types of interface devices with reference to the applicable OSI Reference Model layers, then the final chapter will summarize this thesis and address DMS/CGTS interface issues and recommendations.

1. Repeaters

Repeaters are devices that connect systems with the same physical-level (Layer 1) protocols by regenerating signals without changing any of the control or data information. Repeater or amplifiers receive attenuated signals from one link and increase the signal strength, and in some case reconstruct digital signals, before it transmits the signal to the next link. Repeaters are simple devices typically used to extend the local distance limitations (typically 500 meters) inherent in LANs. Disadvantages of the repeater are its short distance related use and the possibility that it may pass bad data because they do not perform error checking functions. [Ref. 31:pp. 197-198, Ref. 30:pp. 148, 159]

2. Bridges

Bridges are interface devices that connect networks through the Data Link Layer. Figure 19 [Ref. 31:p. 202] depicts the functionality of a bridge between two networks.

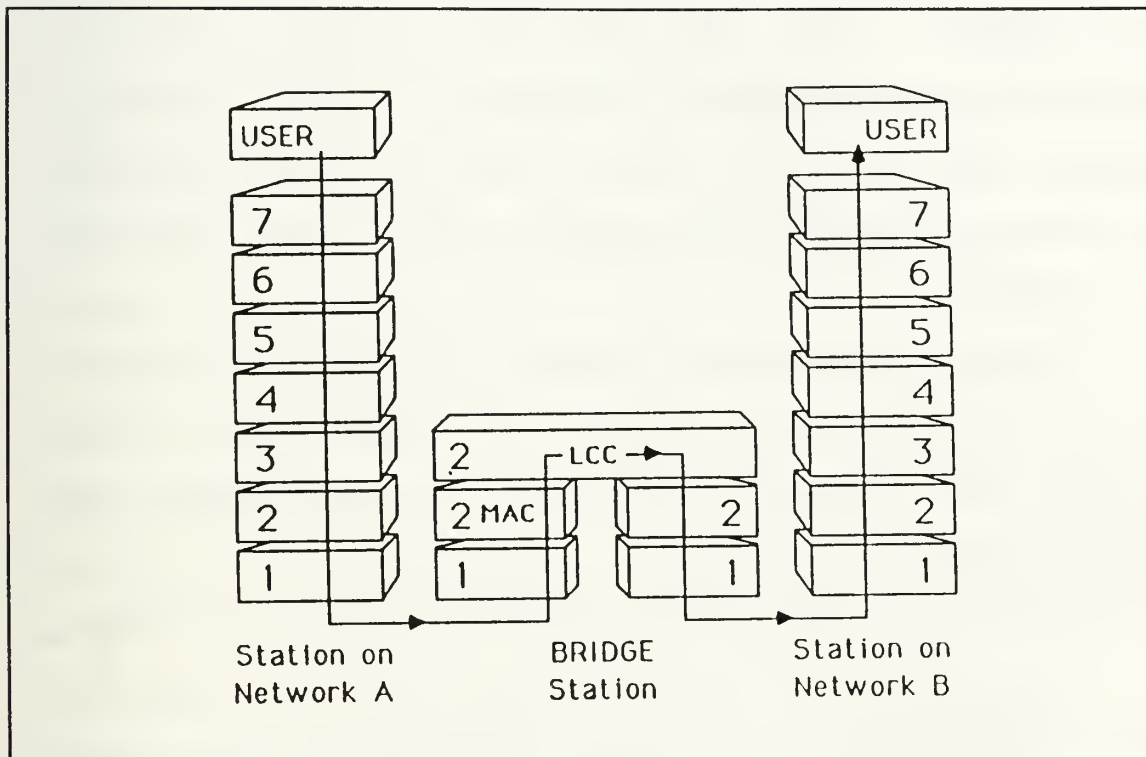


Figure 19 Bridge Functionality (using OSI Reference Model)

Bridges are connected at the MAC sublayer and are routed by means of the LLC sublayer. A bridge is considered protocol-independent from the aspect that it monitors both networks' MAC sublayer source and destination addresses, and if appropriate, routes traffic between the two networks. This filtering capability is needed since not all of the traffic on one network need be routed to the second network. Bridges can be self-learning or intelligent if LLC routing tables are automatically updated as devices are added or deleted from the

subnetworks. Self-routing bridges deal with more complex network situations where bridge-to-bridge connections are made. Bridges are typically used to divide a large LAN into separate subnetworks thereby reducing congestion, improving system response time, and enhancing overall security possibilities. An advantage for the use of a bridge is that it can be used to interconnect networks that use different access methods (e.g., token-ring and ethernet). [Ref. 31:pp. 200-208]

3. Routers

Routers are interface devices that typically connect networks at the internet sublayer to the Network Layer. Figure 20 [Ref. 31:p. 210] depicts a router between two similar networks.

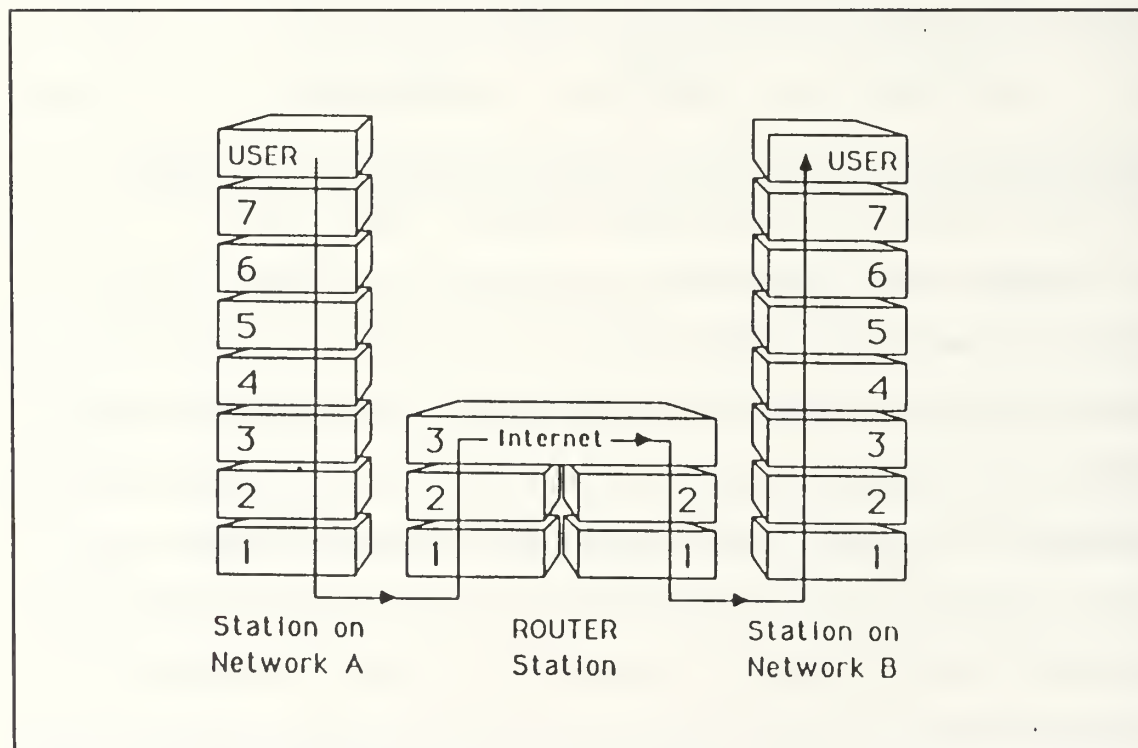


Figure 20 Router Functionality (using OSI Reference Model)

Like bridges, routers provide filtering and other bridging functions over a network. However, unlike bridges, routers can be used to build large wide area networks (WANs) by interconnecting or linking LANs to a WAN backbone, such as an X.25 network. Unlike bridges, routers are protocol-dependent for both the LANs and the WAN, meaning that the same protocols need to be used. Routers also offer more imbedded intelligence which provides enhanced network management, flow control, and error checking capabilities. Routers keep track of the entire network through the use of a routing table, where it keeps track of the status of the network's nodes and paths. For static routers, the network manager manually maintains the routing table(s), whereas in a dynamic router it automatically reconfigures the routing table and recalculates the lowest cost path, and can balance the traffic load in the network. These extra capabilities (as compared to a bridge) result in more effective operations due the capability to avoid congested or inoperative links. [Ref. 31:pp. 209-213]

4. Gateways

A gateway is an interface device typically used between two different types of networks that use different protocols. Figure 21 [Ref. 31:p. 210] depicts a gateway's functionality between two dissimilar networks. Note that it spans all seven layers to the OSI Reference Model.

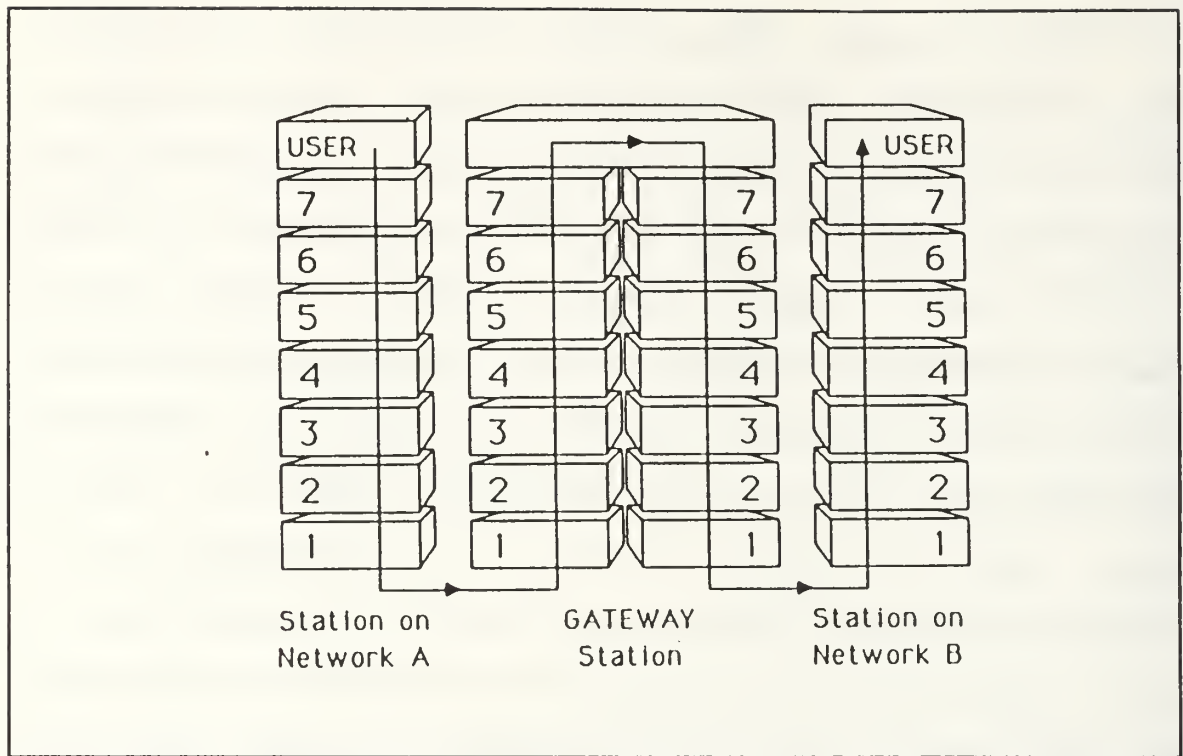


Figure 21 Gateway Functionality (using OSI Reference Model)

A gateway is more capable and more costly than bridges or routers because it performs protocol conversions or translation, and ensures data compatibility so that different networks can communicate. Gateways enhance security measures through the assignment of specific access privileges to specific access ports. Gateways simplify network management by keeping track of the information that passes through it and the data links that connect to it; therefore, it can ensure that the links are handling data reliably. A gateway can balance information traffic load levels by bypassing failed or congested links to find the best route to the destination.

Figure 22 [Ref. 31:p. 224] shows two X.25 gateways from two different LANs (on the left a ring LAN and the right

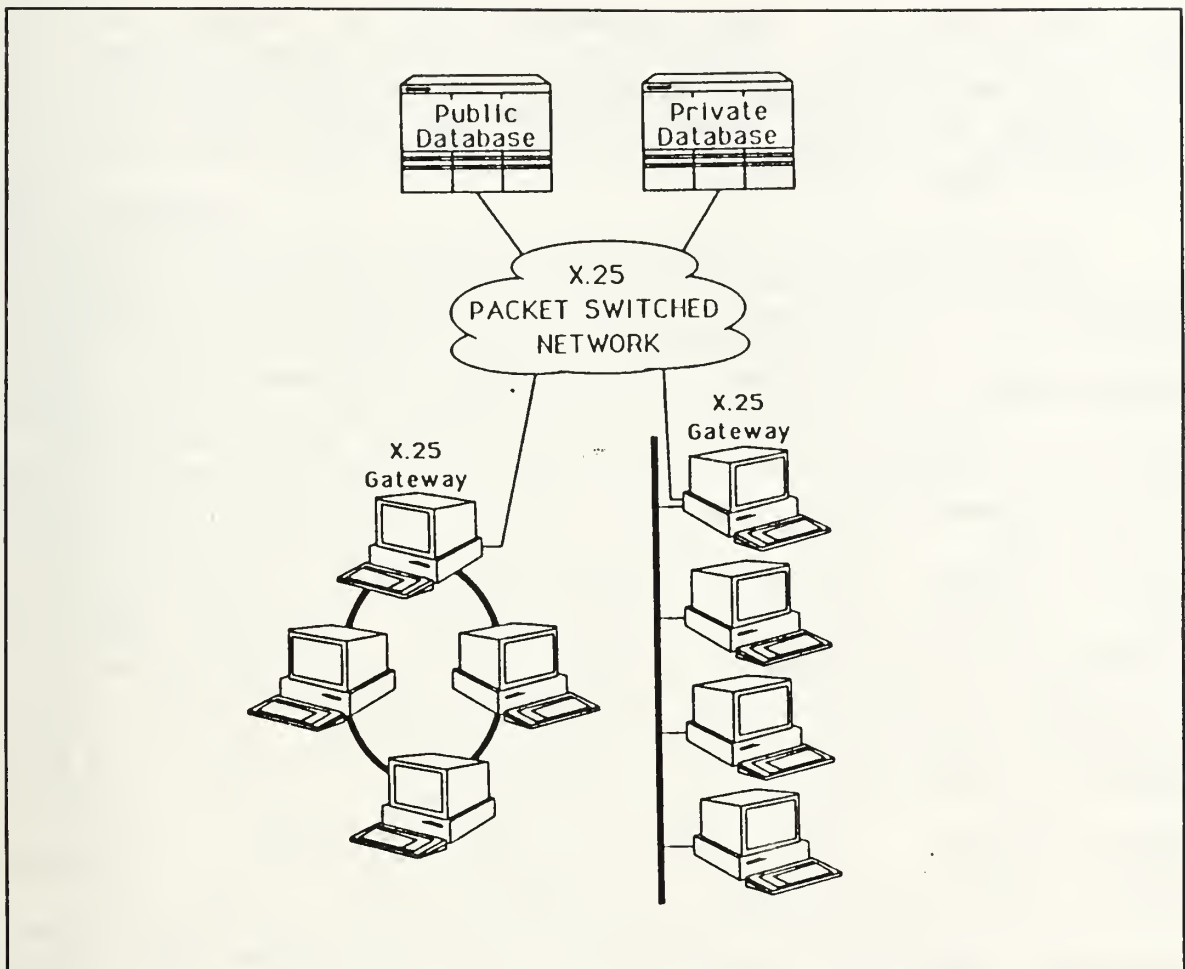


Figure 22 LAN - Gateway - PSN - Database Network

a bus LAN) connected to an X.25 Packet Switched Network, which has access to various databases. All of these advantages translate to a congestion or performance bottleneck due to the extra functionalities performed at different layers. For this reason, gateways are typically dedicated to specific applications, such as E-Mail and batch file transfers. [Ref 31:pp. 219-222]

Bridges, routers and gateways have been summarized as follows:

Bridges, routers, and gateways may be viewed as specialized network communications servers that provide varying levels of connectivity, efficiency, and economy to corporate networks. Each product category has wide disparities in transparency, reliability, and level of control. [Ref. 31:p. 226]

As technological advances take place, hybrid interface devices will be developed to maximize advantages and minimize disadvantages. One example is the hybrid bridge-router, or brouter. A brouter distributes load sharing and alternative routing between nodes (like a router), and also enforces security across a network by blocking access to restricted nodes by unauthorized users (like a bridge). Another example is a combined router-terminal server, or trouter. A trouter is a single device that performs the functions of a router and a terminal server. [Ref. 31:pp. 214-215] Advances in other network interface devices will likely evolve to meet ever-increasing demands for networks to be more efficient and cost effective.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A. SUMMARY

This thesis provides an overview of the Defense Message System and the messaging related components of the Coast Guard Telecommunications System. This thesis can be used as a basis for the development of a Coast Guard DMS Transition Plan. The DMS and the CGTS are both in the process of evolving or transitioning to more automated systems (less manual interventions), that will comply with appropriate standards, such as the Government Open Systems Interface Protocol (GOSIP). Like a fast moving target, the DMS and CGTS transition actions complicate the task of adequately describing the two systems, especially the CGTS. The overviews provided in Chapters II and III attempt to address the current communications situation, while at the same time, address planned transition actions. The DMS and CGTS transition actions do not simultaneously occur in all locations at the same time. The task of system/network managers is to ensure that both government and service needs are met, which include compatibility and interoperability between the systems.

The DMS is a planned twenty year, three phase project to fully automate DOD writer-to-reader messaging services by the year 2008. It is based on the DOD's Automatic Digital Network

(AUTODIN) and Defense Data Network (DDN) electronic mail services, including those services associated with DOD local area networks. The transition to an automated system will result in significant changes to the AUTODIN and DDN, and will use the X.400 Message Handling Service and the X.500 Directory Service. The automation process will evolve as the AUTODIN message transport backbone is replaced by the base level and long haul Information Transfer Utility, which will evolve from the DDN and local area networks. The results of the transition process will be seen by the closing of AUTODIN Switching Centers, Automated Message Processing Exchanges, and Telecommunications Centers. Appendix A lists the Coast Guard locations that connect with these facilities. A key issue for the Coast Guard, and other military services and DOD agencies, is how they will interface with these DOD facilities, or their DDN related replacement locations, during the DMS transition process.

The automation process for the messaging components of the Coast Guard Telecommunications System is well underway. The Coast Guard is transitioning to a private, Coast Guard owned, data network. This network is called the Coast Guard Data Network which is a hybrid data network consisting of multiple systems, networks, and transmission modes. The CGDN backbone and its district level component will be using X.25 protocols. The CGDN transports unclassified message and data in E-mail envelopes. In general, classified record messages are sent

over AUTODIN or, for smaller units, over the Coast Guard's Secure Data Network. The installation of the Message Distribution Terminal (MDT) as AUTODIN Interface Terminal, coupled with appropriate site-by-site security accreditations for MDT installations, enhance the automation process from a torn-paper-tape interface system, to a semi-automated, air-gapped MDT setup, to a fully automated MDT setup. For security purposes prior to accreditation, some Coast Guard locations are using an air-gapped MDT setup which means that there are no hard wired connections between the MDT and Coast Guard systems and networks. The temporary air-gap setups require communication center personnel to hand carry floppy diskettes or cassette tapes between the MDT and Coast Guard systems and networks. This situation is not as favorable as a hard wired connection, but it is better than using torn paper-tape. With perfect 20 - 20 hindsight, one can see that the Coast Guard's February 1991 decision [Ref. 24] to use the U.S. Navy originated MDT as a service-wide AUTODIN interface terminal was on the mark, for in March 1992, the MDT became a DMS joint project sponsored by the U.S. Air Force [Ref. 32]. For the Coast Guard, the assignment of the DMS joint project status to the MDT means that other services and agencies will also need to address MDT-to-AUTODIN transition issues as the AUTODIN is phased out.

Coast Guard plans call for the automation/closure of all communications stations, except for one on each coast. Similar

automation/closure or downsizing actions are also planned for Coast Guard communications centers. These automation/closure and downsizing actions are similar to those planned in the DMS Program.

Systems procured by the Coast Guard, the DOD, and other government agencies are required to meet the Government Open Systems Interface Protocol. GOSIP is based on Open Systems Interface reference model and standards. This requirement was established to ensure basic interoperability between government agencies. This requirement will make all government systems and networks more compatible, and will make interface devices between them less complicated.

B. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This last section will address DMS related issues that may be of interest to the Coast Guard. In general, it appears that the actions taken or planned by the Coast Guard are heading in the same direction as the actions planned by the DMS project. In some ways, the Coast Guard's current use of E-Mail "envelope" technology, to send and receive various messages and data files as attachments to E-Mail envelopes, places the Coast Guard in a good position to address future Coast Guard-DMS interface issues that will be looking at similar transport issues.

1. Plans for the DMS Transition

It is the opinion of the author that it may be in the Coast Guard's best interest to document and formally address future DMS-CGTS interface issues. Options include: (1) continue as is without formally documenting DMS issues, (2) include DMS transition issues in the next edition of the Coast Guard Telecommunications Plan (Ref. 11), or (3) develop a separate Coast Guard DMS Transition Plan. Each option has its advantages and disadvantages.

Option 1 may appear to show that there is little Coast Guard interest in the DMS transition process, however, Coast Guard actions to date meet DMS objectives. For example, DMS Phase 1 objectives are: (1) TCC automation, (2) extension of messaging services to users, (3) transfer data pattern traffic to DDN, (4) eliminate the use of paper material, and (5) posture for the phasing out of communication facilities (ASCs, AMPEs, and TTCs) through the use of transitional components and initiating the transition to international standard protocols and procedures [Ref. 2:p. A-1]. Unilateral actions taken by the Coast Guard meet all of these DMS goals except for the transfer of data pattern traffic to DDN. Instead, the Coast Guard is transitioning unclassified data pattern traffic to the CGDN. It may be in the Coast Guard's best interest to be aware of the changes that occur to DDN as it evolves to the ITU. This point is brought up as it may be more cost effective to use the ITU in the future rather than maintain a separate

CGDN, or maybe the Coast Guard could plan for the CGDN to evolve and become part of the ITU. An advantage of a separate CGDN is that it would not be restricted by DOD related Minimize conditions. For example, DOD Minimize actions were used during the 1990-1991 operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Coast Guard used this time period to enforce the restriction on sending messages over the AUTODIN by requiring all unclassified messages (where possible) to be sent over the CGDN. Because of the availability and capabilities of the CGDN, Coast Guard day-to-day operations were not substantially affected by the DOD Minimize actions.

Option 2's advantage is that specific Coast Guard-DMS transition issues could be folded into the Coast Guard-wide communications plan, or have a separate dedicated chapter, without having to develop a separate plan. Disadvantages could possibly include that some transition issues may be overlooked or not fully considered or addressed, or the status of the transition issues may not be properly maintained over time.

Option 3's advantage is that all CGTS-DMS transition issues would be consolidated into one document that could be easily used by both the Coast Guard and the DMS community. The Coast Guard DMS Transition Plan could then be targeted for updates every other year or possibly even annually. A disadvantage would be the extra Coast Guard Headquarters staff time that would need to be devoted to developing and maintaining the plan. It is the author's opinion that the

time dedicated to accomplishing this task (and maintain it) would pay off in future benefits by providing the DMS community with Coast Guard inputs and possible new ideas and recommendations for the evolving DMS, while at the same time providing the Coast Guard with DMS related policy and guidance. Based on this option's advantage, the author recommends the development of a Coast Guard DMS Transition Plan that focuses primarily on CGTS-DMS interface related issues.

2. Other Specific Issues

The following paragraphs address some of the important issues that should be considered by the Coast Guard. Although not all-inclusive, these issues represent items of interest that the author considers worthy of near term Coast Guard attention.

a. X.400 MHS and X.500 Directory

The X.400 Message Handling Service is a GOSIP standard that will be used by the DMS. The Coast Guard currently has the capability to utilize X.400 capabilities through the use of Unisys's OFIS Mail (B-Mail), the OFIS Access - X.400 system service, and the BTOS OSI MHS 400 system [Ref. 33:p. H-1]. Depending on the next CGSW contract and the costs involved, the Coast Guard should consider transition E-Mail services to use the X.400 MHS to meet GOSIP and DMS standards. X.500 Directory related issues are planned to be

addressed in GOSIP Version 3 [Ref. 29:p. 41], and it is also included in DMS plans. The Coast Guard should consider the use of this standard also. By having X.400 and X.500 capabilities, the Coast Guard could position itself to meet future DMS transition needs. If these capabilities are not available to the Coast Guard when the DMS phases out AUTODIN components, then a transitional interface component will need to be developed. An example of this is the DMS's Phase 2 DIN/DMS Gateway.

b. DMS-CGTS Interface

One of the most important issues is the interface between the DMS and the CGTS. That current interface device is the MDT connection to the AUTODIN. (AUTODIN is a DMS baseline component.) As addressed above, other services and agencies will also be looking to transition from the MDT-to-AUTODIN connection to a future connection between their follow-on components. This transition should be addressed from a Coast Guard service-wide perspective and also by each Coast Guard location listed in Appendix A. The service-wide perspective should address overall policy, guidance, and funding on how to manage the transition. Coast Guard locations that currently connect to AUTODIN must be preparing for the day when those connections will need to be modified or replaced. The Coast Guard locations in Appendix A should maintain close contact

with their appropriate ASC, AMPE, or TCC to ensure that they are kept informed of future planned changes.

c. Security Issues

There are numerous DMS related security issues. Where appropriate, the security requirements of the Coast Guard, DOD, and National Security Agency need to be met. One such issue is the site specific accreditations to install direct MDT connections without an air-gap. DMS security policies will identify a Message Security Protocol (MSP) or other security mechanisms. A DMS Component Security Guide will contain policy on how to certify DMS components and accredit facilities. The Coast Guard will likely have the option to adopt the MSP standard for Coast Guard use, or use different standards and use an MSP gateway to interface with the DMS. An advantage of using the MSP is that the Coast Guard would have less complicated interfaces to the DMS. These and other security related issues should be addressed by the Coast Guard.

d. Coast Guard Support to DOD

As addressed in Chapter I, the Coast Guard provides messaging support to various DOD and military service commands, units, and agencies, such as Joint Task Force 5 and many others. A detailed inventory of all of these commands, units, and agencies should be provided to the DMS Project and appropriate military services for their DMS Transition Plans.

As Coast Guard systems are automated, so should the messaging support to those commands, units, and agencies, or this support should be replaced by systems provided by the DOD and/or appropriate military service or agency.

APPENDIX A. COAST GUARD AUTODIN ACCESS

<u>Coast Guard Locations</u>	<u>ASC/AMPE/TCC Access Locations</u>
Headquarters, Washington, DC	NTCC Cheltenham, MD
Atlantic Area, New York, NY	ASC Hancock, NY
1st District, Boston, MA	ASC Hancock, NY
2nd District, St Louis, MO	ASC Tinker AFB
5th District, Portsmouth, VA	NTCC Breezy Point, NC
7th District, Miami, FL	ASC Albany, NY
GANTSEC, San Juan, PR	NAVCOMMSTA R. Roads, PR
9th District, Cleveland, OH	ASC Gentile AFB
CAMSLANT, Chesapeake, VA	NTCC Breezy Point, NC
COMMSTA Boston, MA	ASC Ft Dietrick, MD
COMMSTA Miami, FL	ASC Albany, NY
Group Baltimore, MD	ASC Andrew AFB
AIRSTA Elizabeth City, NC	ASC Ft Dietrick, MD
Pacific Area, Alameda, CA	AMME Oakland, CA
11th District Long Beach, CA	ASC Norton AFB
13th District, Seattle, WA	NAVCOMMSTA Puget Sound, WA
14th District, Honolulu, HI	NTCC Makalapa, HI
17th District, Juneau, AK	ASC McClellan AFB
CAMSPAC, Point Reyes, CA	NTCC Stockton, CA
COMMSTA Honolulu, HI	NTCC Makalapa, HI
COMMSTA Kodiak, AK	ASC McClellan AFB
COMMSTA Guam	NAVCAMS WESTPAC Guam

APPENDIX B. COAST GUARD DSNET 1 ACCESS

Coast Guard Locations

Headquarters, Washington, DC

(Intelligence Coordination Center (ICC backside to HQ))

Atlantic Area, New York, NY

7th District, Miami, FL

Maritime Intelligence Center (MIC backside to D7)

GANTSEC, San Juan, PR

8th District, New Orleans, LA

Pacific Area, Alameda, CA

11th District, Long Beach, CA

13th District, Seattle, WA

Future plans call for the possible connection of the following commands:

1st District, Boston, MA

5th District, Portsmouth, VA

14th District, Honolulu, HI

17th District, Juneau, AK

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